

Lancaster County has made a commitment to conserving greenways, including abandoned railroad lines suitable for hiking trails. Because of its rich history of rail-roading, Pennsylvania has become one of the leading states in the establishment of rail trails. In fact, in Pennsylvania alone there are over one hundred such trails extending more than 900 miles.

These special corridors not only preserve an important piece of our heritage, they also give the park user a unique view of the countryside while preserving habitats for a variety of wildlife. While today's pathways offer the pedestrian quiet seclusion, these routes once represented part of the world's busiest transportation system.

G Conestoga Greenway Trail

Acquired in 2010, the 1.3-mile Conestoga Greenway Trail is a paved pathway that runs along the outer bank of the Conestoga River as it encircles the Sunnyside peninsula. This trail provides excellent opportunities for walking, jogging and biking. It also provides a convenient pedestrian connection from the City of Lancaster into Central Park.

In addition to recreational activities, the Conestoga Greenway also provides educational opportunities to study the riverway itself, as well as the wildlife and flora and fauna that call it home. This trail will serve as a prototype for the development of additional greenways along the Conestoga River.



H Conewago Recreation Trail

In 1979, the county acquired the Conewago Recreation Trail located between Route 230 and the Lebanon County line northwest of Elizabethtown. This 5.5-mile trail, formerly the Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad, follows the Conewago Creek through scenic farmland and woodlands, and links to the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail. A 17-acre day-use area, which includes a small pond for fishing, was acquired in 1988. This area is located immediately east of Route 230.



I Lancaster Junction Recreation Trail

In 1987, the county acquired the Lancaster Junction Recreation Trail. This trail, part of the former Reading & Columbia Railroad, runs for 2.3 miles between the hamlet of Lancaster Junction and Route 283. Like the Conewago Trail, Lancaster Junction Trail travels through some of Lancaster County's most scenic farmland, and borders Chiques Creek in its northern half.



Both trails have well-graded, level surfaces, making them ideal for hiking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

An Outdoor Laboratory

The county's parks provide opportunities for educational field trips, independent study, and numerous outdoor and environmental education programs. Programs include stream studies, animal tracking, orienteering, GPS programming, owl prowls, moonlit walks, and interpretive walks covering wildflowers, birds and tree identification. Other seasonal programs include a group challenge course, canoeing, and survival skills.



We invite you to learn about ongoing projects and programs in the Lancaster County Park System by contacting the park office or visiting our website.

Program Services

The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of services in addition to its park facilities. Recreational programs include cultural programs and in-service training programs for teachers. Our maintenance program and ranger staff are often instrumental in helping groups plan a recreational, fund-raising, or other special event. Please feel free to call us if our experience in this area can support your group's programming in the county parks system.



Seasonal program listings, individual park maps, and facility use fees may be obtained from the department's website at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

For more information, call or write:
Lancaster County
Department of Parks and Recreation
 1050 Rockford Road
 Lancaster, PA 17602

Telephone (717) 299-8215 Fax (717) 295-5942



www.lancastercountyparks.org
 E-mail: parks@co.lancaster.pa.us

Park Rules

- County parks' rules and regulations can be viewed online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.
- With a rental permit, extended hours are allowed at reserved facilities such as pavilions, camping areas, and lighted athletic fields.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all locations.
- Parks are patrolled by Lancaster County Park Rangers and by police of the municipality in which they are located.

Lancaster County Parks & Recreation



The Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to improving the well-being of county residents by providing facilities and programs that encourage participation in outdoor activities and foster personal action for the conservation of natural resources.

With six regional parks and three recreational trails, the department manages approximately 2,000 acres of land. Regional parks range in level of development from Central Park's more urban setting to the Theodore Parker Natural Area's rural setting in the woodlands along Stewart Run. All county parks and services are also open to non-residents.

A

Lancaster County Central Park

Central Park, named for its central location in the county, is found on the southern edge of Lancaster City and in West Lampeter Township. The park has a rich history:

- Rock Ford Plantation, the preserved 18th-century home of Edward Hand, George Washington's Adjutant General, is located adjacent to the Conestoga River.
- Robert Fulton first experimented with the paddle-wheel boat on the Conestoga River, along what is now Rockford Road.



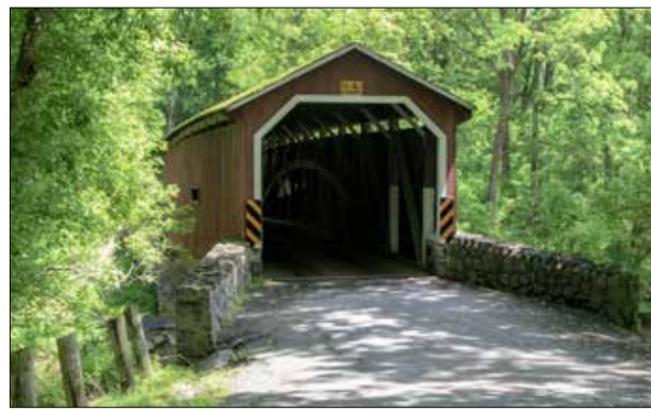
- In 1979, a Native American burial ground was accidentally discovered. A plaque marks the site. Artifacts from an archaeological dig conducted at this site are on display at the Environmental Center.
- Containing 544 acres of various habitats between Mill Creek and the Conestoga River, Central Park is considered by many as the flagship of Lancaster County's fleet of county parks. The park has several distinct areas that provide their own unique facilities.

The Williamson Area

The oldest section of Central Park, this area is named for Henry S. Williamson, who originally donated the park to Lancaster City in 1903. Facilities include a pavilion, a modern skate park, ball fields, a playground and a pair of basketball courts.



The skate park covers over a quarter acre and includes a challenging snake run; four-, six- and ten-foot bowls; and a 16-foot diameter full pipe.



The Kurtz Mill Covered Bridge was originally constructed near Hinkletown in 1876. The structure was almost destroyed by Hurricane Agnes in 1972 and was then rebuilt at the present site.

The Kiwanis Area

Donated by Mrs. Clara Williamson to Lancaster City in 1918, this 94-acre area includes a mature oak and beech forest along Mill Creek, with numerous hiking trails. The Kiwanis Area is well-known for its covered bridge and an abundance of wildflowers; spring programs are conducted here annually by park naturalists.

The Kiwanis Area also includes two group facilities: Pavilion #21, with an enclosed kitchen and wood-burning fireplace; and Lodge #22, a fully-enclosed, heated building with kitchen, gas fireplace, and accommodations for 150 people. The lodge is ideally suited for banquets, meetings, and other social functions.



Shooting star and columbine are two of the many types of spring flowers found in park woodlands.

Environmental Center

This beautifully restored, 19th-century bank barn is the center for the county's environmental education programs. Naturalists conduct public programs, classes for organized groups, in-service training for teachers and environmental education workshops. Each year people of all ages use the center's auditorium and two classrooms, as well as period exhibits of local and natural history. Near the center, you will find lovely gardens, a primitive campground and a wildlife habitat which surrounds the Shuts Environmental Library.

The Environmental Center and Shuts Library are great resources for learners of all ages.



Shuts Environmental Library

Shuts Environmental Library is a public lending library that occupies an 18th-century farmhouse beside the Environmental Center in Central Park.

The library provides resources about the environment to the public. Educators can take advantage of a comprehensive selection of teacher guides and curriculum materials for grades K-12.

The library contains over 4,500 books and videos about nature, wildlife, gardening, Native Americans, health, wilderness survival, and other topics for children and adults. There is also an impressive collection of field guides for North American plants and animals. All of these resources are part of the Lancaster County Public Library System.

The Conestoga Area

This section is the site of year-round recreational activities. The county swimming pool complex is located immediately adjacent to the park office. This facility includes a main pool, a large beach-like children's pool with water-play features, two water slides, a bathhouse, a concession stand, playground, basketball courts and more than three acres of lounge area. The pool attracts over 40,000 visitors each year.

The Conestoga Area is also the site of three pavilions with a view of the Conestoga River. These pavilions are equipped with adjoining restrooms, play areas, volleyball courts, making them ideally suited for family picnics and summer-camp programs. Nearby trails provide short and long routes for the novice or experienced hiker, bird-watcher, or cross-country skier.

The most unique park facility in this area is the Garden of Five Senses. The garden combines barrier-free, paved walkways with raised herb and flower gardens, scent boxes, reflecting pools and watercourses, and interpretive signage to lead the visitor through a natural experience of the five senses. A nearby gazebo and picnic area, coupled with numerous seasonal flower displays, makes this site ideal for garden enthusiasts and photographers.



Other Areas

A sports complex on Golf Road contains softball and soccer fields and a large playground. North of this complex, a community garden plot area provides over 300 plots for vegetable gardeners. This area also includes four tennis courts, a fitness trail, and a restored farmhouse. This quaint building includes an activity room, fireplace, and kitchen. The farmhouse is ideally suited for small meetings and classes.

B

Chickies Rock County Park

Located between the boroughs of Columbia and Marietta, Chickies Rock County Park includes Chiques Creek and selected access points to the Susquehanna River. The most notable feature in the park is Chickies Rock, a massive outcropping of quartzite rock towering more than 100 feet above the river. The overlook offers impressive views of York

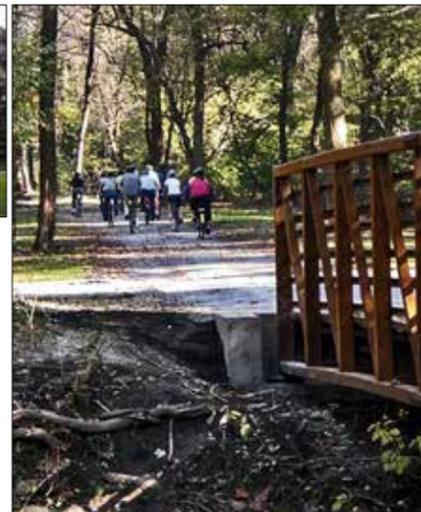


County, the Borough of Marietta, and farmlands of Lancaster County. A day-use area on the southwest edge of the park, known as Breezyview, offers a panoramic view of Chickies Rock and the Susquehanna River. In the northwest section of the park, a day-use area at Furnace Road offers open play areas and a boat launch onto the Susquehanna River.

Chickies Rock County Park also offers a collection of historical treasures. The area which is now county parkland once boasted seven iron furnaces and rolling mills, a canal, and a local trolley line during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Remnants of several of the furnaces, canal walls, and trolley-line grades are still visible. The Musselman-Vesta Iron Furnace Center is located in the Chickies National Register Historic District and features many artifacts from the iron furnace era.



Chickies Rock County Park contains part of the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail and the Musselman-Vesta Iron Furnace Center.



Also part of the park is the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail. This 14-mile, multi-use pathway runs adjacent to the Susquehanna River and spans five municipalities.

C

D. F. Buchmiller County Park

Named for Dulon F. Buchmiller, who donated the property to Lancaster City in 1922, this 79-acre park was acquired by the County of Lancaster in 1977. Located in West Lampeter Township, the park is known for its open lawn areas and arboretum-type plantings. Facilities include three pavilions, six tennis courts, a playground, a non-sanctioned/unofficial ball field, and a disc golf course.

**D**

Money Rocks County Park



This county park adjacent to Narvon Clay Mine includes over 375 acres of woodland in the Welsh Mountains of eastern Lancaster County. The pride of the park is a rocky spine of boulders called “Money Rocks,” so-named because farmers in the Pequea Valley allegedly hid cash among the rocks. The ridge offers beautiful views of farmland, towns and distant wooded hills.

The Welsh Mountains harbor the second largest remaining forested area in Lancaster County, superseded only by the Furnace Hills. This park preserves a nice part of that forest, which is in various stages of natural plant succession. This parkland includes numerous blazed trails making much of this wooded park accessible to hikers and nature lovers. Hunting is permitted in this park during authorized seasons.

In 2010, the Lancaster County Conservancy acquired more than 450 acres of forest land adjacent to Money Rocks County Park, expanding publicly accessible land to more than 800 acres.

E

Speedwell Forge County Park

Much of the Hammer Creek Valley is in public ownership, and this park adds 415 acres to that end. It is located between the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s Speedwell Forge Lake and the wooded State Game Lands of the nearby Furnace Hills. In this park, you will find a diversity of habitats, including successional upland woods, a maturing forest, a wooded wetland, cultivated fields and an overgrown, wet meadow along the Hammer Creek.

Though undeveloped, this park offers small parking areas along Speedwell Forge Road and Oak Lane, and several hiking trails through its scenic woodlands.

Beautiful patches of native woodland wildflowers – many common and not-so-common species – are the pride of Speedwell’s forests. Many of these flowers are in bloom from mid-April until mid-May.

Deer, ruffed grouse, wood thrushes, veeries, and several kinds of woodpeckers live in the Speedwell’s forests. Hunting and fishing are allowed in the park during authorized seasons.



Spring beauty (pictured here) and bloodroot bloom in early April in the moist, well-drained woodlands of Speedwell Forge County Park.

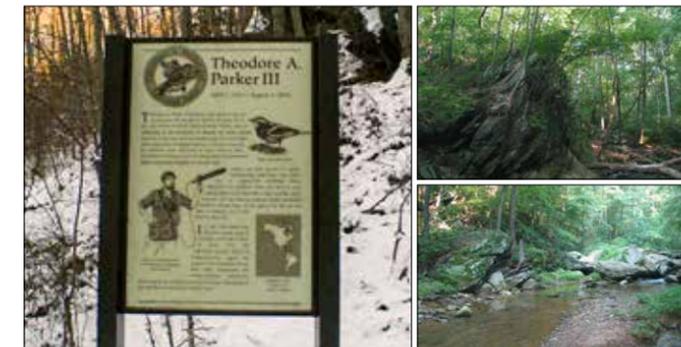
**F**

Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area

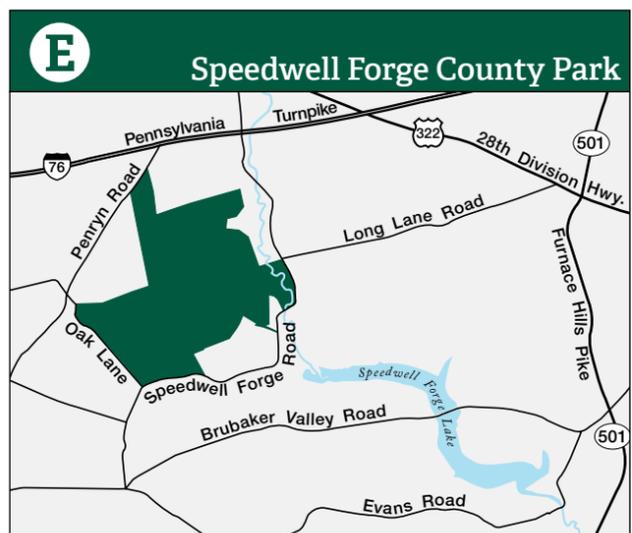
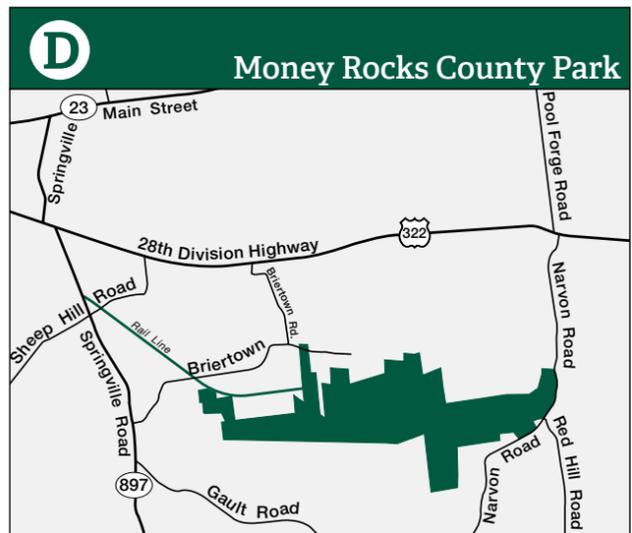
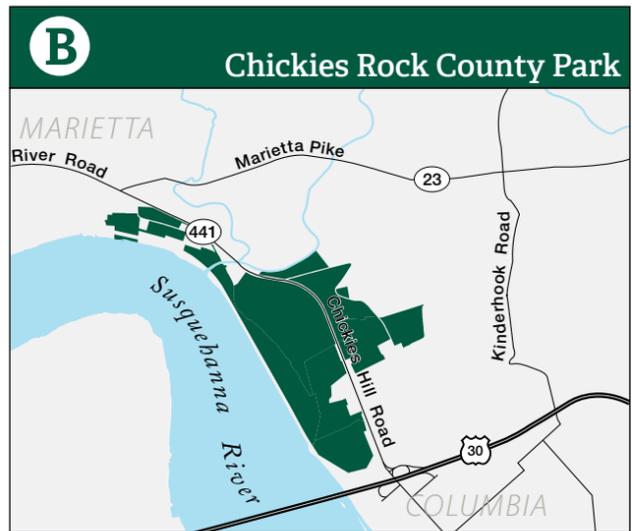
This 100-acre park is located in the southeast portion of Lancaster County. It is named after the late Theodore A. Parker III, who was an internationally known ornithologist from Lancaster County. In this preserved gem, Stewart Run tumbles over rocks and waterfalls to create one of the county’s most pristine streams.

The flora throughout this tract is also impressive. Spring visitors may find trout lilies and violets carpeting the forest floor.

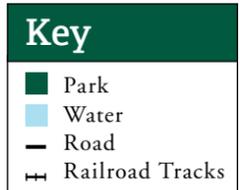
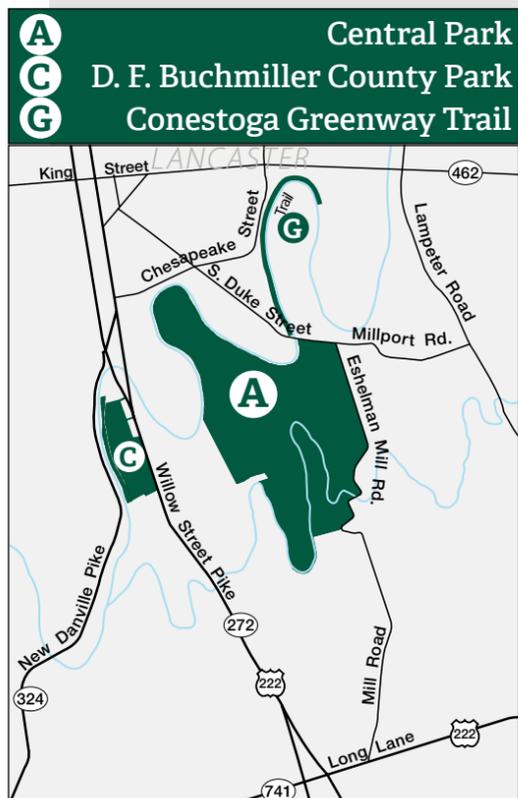
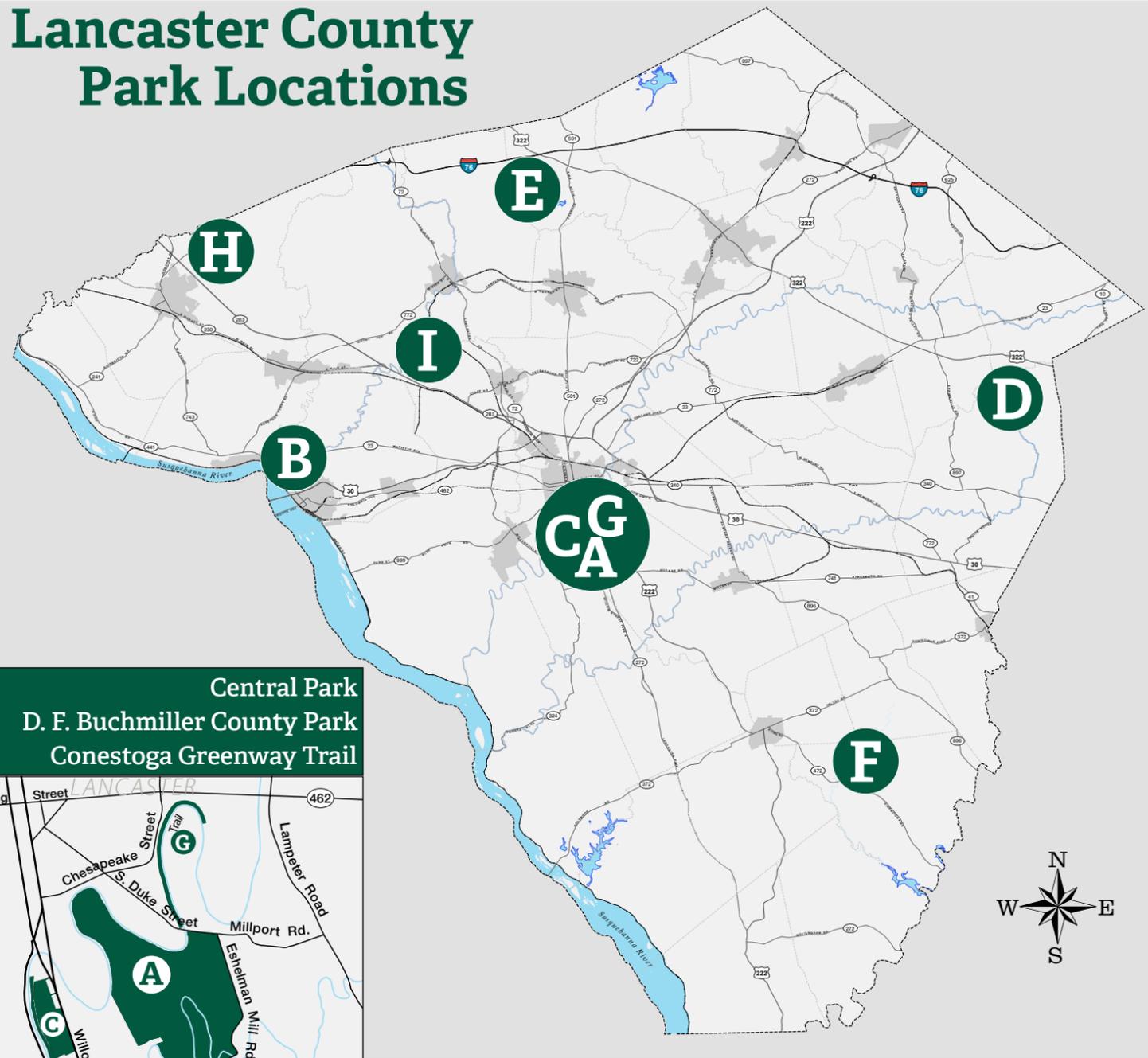
Animal life is also abundant, including deer, raccoon, opossum, and both brown and brook trout. Bird enthusiasts will find excellent opportunities in this quiet glen. Fishing is permitted in this park during authorized seasons.



An interpretive sign along the trail describes some of the contributions of noted Lancaster County ornithologist Theodore A. Parker III.



Lancaster County Park Locations



Facility Key



Map location	Parks						Trails		
	Central Park	Chickies Rock County Park	D. F. Buchmiller County Park	Money Rocks County Park	Speedwell Forge County Park	Theodore A. Parker III Natural Area	Conestoga Greenway Trail	Conewago Recreation Trail	Lancaster Junction Recreation Trail
Ball Fields	4								
Bicycle Trail							•	•	
Bird Blind	•								
Boat Launch		•							
Canoe Launches	•	•							
Disc Golf			•						
Environmental Center	•								
Fitness Trail	•								
Hiking Trails	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Historic Sites	•	•							
Horse Trails	•	•						•	
Hunting*		•		•	•				
Indoor Meeting Rooms	4								
Lodges	1								
Mountain Bicycling^	•	•		•				•	
Natural Areas	•	•		•	•	•			
Pavilions	5		3						
Picnic Areas	•	•							
Playgrounds	•	•							
Pond Fishing								•	
Restrooms	•	•						•	
Scenic Overlook		•		•					
Senses Garden	•								
Skate Park	•								
Sledding Slopes	•	•							
Soccer Field	3								
Stream Fishing	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Swimming Pool	•								
Tennis Courts	4		6						
Tent Camping	•								
Vegetable Gardens	•								
Volleyball Areas	•**		•**						
X-Country Skiing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Notes:
 * Special hunting regulations apply ** Only with Pavilion Rental
 ^ On Specified Trails Only

Detailed park maps are available online at the Parks and Trails web page.
<http://web.co.lancaster.pa.us/243/Parks-Trails>