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POSTAGE

MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER  
c/o Centre Region Parks & Recreation  
2643 Gateway Drive #1  
State College, PA 16801

## EARLY HISTORY OF MILLBROOK MARSH



Most of the Nature Center property is part of the Houserville Archaeological District, which contains many prehistoric Native American sites. The most

common evidence of prehistoric people living here are flakes and other stone pieces produced as waste during the manufacture of stone tools, such as projectile points, drills and scrapes. Much of the stone material found on site here is jasper. The jasper source is located along and under East Park Avenue near its intersection with Orchard Road, less than a mile from the Nature Center. The jasper source may have been discovered as early as 8000 B.C. Groups camped along the streams while procuring jasper for making new tools. Jasper pieces of good quality were roughly shaped at the quarry and then taken to a camp site where they were shaped further.

A hearth, also found on site, was radiocarbon dated; the result was 745 years A.D., plus or minus 80 years. It contained many heavily-burned and closely-packed limestone rocks, charcoal, jasper flakes, charred maize, nutshell, and wild seeds.

## CONTACT INFO & MAP/DIRECTIONS

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is located at 614 Puddintown Road in College Township. For directions, please visit [www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org](http://www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org).



Mailing Address:  
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center  
c/o Centre Region Parks & Recreation  
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# Millbrook Marsh Nature Center



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614 Puddintown Road, College Township  
State College, PA 16801  
[www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org](http://www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org)



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Mission of Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is to educate and inspire people about the natural world, and to instill a passion for the environment through science, history, culture, and art.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is located in the heart of Centre County - in College Township - and is easily accessible to residents, visitors, and school groups.

The beautiful 62 acres at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center provide visitors with a unique wetlands setting to explore and enjoy. The 12-acre farmstead includes a farmhouse, an 1850s forebay bank barn, and outbuildings. Upland field areas, once farmed by residents and grazed by livestock, are still visible and divided by historic fence posts. Bluebirds and kestrels can be seen flying over and small animals such as groundhogs, foxes, and rabbits can be seen venturing through the fields. These areas, some of which were originally wetlands, are now being managed to return to their natural state.

The 50-acre wetland area at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center showcases several important types of wetland areas, including natural springs and a calcareous fen. The forested areas are wonderful places to walk among the trees, watch for birds and mammals, and observe the trees and plants. The meadows, full of wildflowers, tall grasses, and sedges, give visitors a glimpse at the beauty of natural wetlands. Plants such as Teasel, Joe-pye weed, and Angelica are mini-cities for insects, fascinating to view and observe. Many types of native wildflowers flourish in the wetland and can be seen from the paths and walkways. Over 50 species of songbirds, as well as hawks and blue herons, have been sighted at the marsh.

Millbrook Marsh is transected by three streams that join Spring Creek near the popular Spring Creek Park. Bathgate Springs Run, Thompson Run, and Slab Cabin Run offer unique wildlife viewing and nature education opportunities. Visiting students work with a staff natural-

ist to trace the water from Millbrook Marsh until it eventually reaches the Chesapeake Bay. They also learn about important aquatic macro-invertebrates and why water is so important to our environment.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Millbrook Marsh Nature Center grounds are open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week for day-use purposes such as hiking, bird watching, picnicking, etc. The Nature Center buildings are open only during scheduled public or private programs, but visitors are welcome to enjoy the grounds when the buildings are not open.

### **Important rules:**

- Please stay on the trails and the boardwalk
- Bikes must be walked on the boardwalk
- Refrain from cutting, removing or disturbing vegetation
- Please do not litter
- No alcoholic beverages
- Please respect the wild creatures and natural areas
- Hunting and trapping is prohibited
- Dogs must be kept on a leash. The owners must clean up after the dogs.
- All research projects must be approved in advance.
- Permits are required in advance for any group use of the site.

### **Millbrook Marsh Nature Center provides great opportunities seasonally, including:**

- Programs for Young Children
- Guided Discovery Programs for Youth
- Exciting Summer Camps
- Family Programs & Events
- Programs for Homeschool Families and Scout Groups
- Birthday Parties for Children
- Rentals Opportunities for the Barn & Pavilion



## FRIENDS GROUP

The Friends of Millbrook Marsh Nature Center support the operation and development of the environmental, cultural, and historical initiatives offered at the nature center. Friends receive quarterly newsletters, a 10% discount on programs, and more! Please join and help support the future of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

## FUTURE PLANS

The vision for the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is to build and maintain an innovative and creative environmental education center, including year-round teaching buildings, a cutting-edge wetland/water laboratory, informational kiosks, parking areas, and access to community bike paths. With this vision in mind, members of the community have volunteered countless hours each month to the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee. This group, with the support of the Parks & Recreation staff and the Centre Regional Recreation Authority, has developed a Master Plan for the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. With the continued development of Nature Center facilities, improved community programs and educational services can be offered to a wider range of people with diverse interests.

The Nature Center is operated by Centre Region Parks and Recreation, an agency of the Centre Region Council of Governments, and the Centre Regional Recreation Authority, an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization.

Photos by Molly Hetrick and Sarah Caskey



## MAILING CARD

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER?**

Please complete and mail this coupon to receive more information about the programs and services listed below. Thank you for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Please send me information about:**

- Group Programs offered at MMNC.
- Joining the "Friends of Millbrook Marsh Nature Center".
- How we can support the future of the Nature Center through a tax-deductible donation.
- Renting the Nature Center barn and/or pavilion for activities, events, meetings, and more!
- I am interested in volunteering at the Nature Center.
- I would like someone to contact me regarding questions I have about the center.

For more information about programs or visiting, please visit our website at [www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org](http://www.MyMillbrookMarsh.org) or contact [crpr@crcog.net](mailto:crpr@crcog.net)

