

Round Valley Recreation Area



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service



Trails
Round Valley has six official trails: Cushtunk Trail (red) that provides access to Campground Trail (yellow); Pine Tree Trail (green); Hike and Bike Trail (white); Water Trail (dark blue) and Little Round Top Trail (sky blue). All trails begin from the south parking lot. Trails are open year-round.

The 7.6-mile-long **Cushtunk Trail** and the 3-mile-long **Campground Trail** are multi-use trails. Cushtunk Trail traverses Cushtunk Mountain and passes through both open and heavily wooded areas. The trail surface is rugged, rocky and steep in places which makes it more suitable for experienced hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. **Users must follow the same trail back since it has no outlet or connection.** An old woods road serves as Trail three miles from the south parking lot. Campground Trail provides access to the campsites along the south and east sides of the reservoir.

Pine Tree Trail and **Hike and Bike Trail** are loop trails, each approximately one mile long. They pass through pine woodlands and are ideal for young children, birdwatchers and seniors.

Water Trail does not make a loop but you may connect to left of the gate at the impoundment dike. Water Trail is three miles there-and-back.

Little Round Top Trail ascends a 200-foot hill that is a little version of nearby Round Top Mountain and at the top there is an excellent view of the Reservoir to the east and Landsdown Meadows and Jugtown Mountain to the west.

Day visitors should plan their trail activities so they will be out of the park by closing. For safety and habitat protection, visitors are reminded to stay on the trails, not alter trail markings or create new ones. Fires are not permitted along the trails. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

Access for Persons with Disabilities
Round Valley Recreation Area's day use facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. The first aid room at the beach has beach wheelchairs available. Please contact the park office for further information regarding special disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.

INTRODUCTION

Located in Hunterdon County's Highlands, Round Valley Recreation Area is an oasis for recreation and relaxation. From swimming, fishing and camping to ice boating and cross-country skiing, Round Valley Recreation Area offers a variety of year-round activities.

HISTORY

To meet the increasing demand for water and recreational facilities, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the 1958 Water Supply Law and its companion Water Bond Act. Through this legislation, water was to be conserved and effectively managed. This resulted in the construction of Round Valley Reservoir and eventual completion of the recreation area, which was opened to the public in the spring of 1977. An earth dam was constructed across a narrow cove of water along the west side of the reservoir to form the swimming area, separating it from the main part of the reservoir. The level of water in the swimming area is not affected by the raising and lowering of the water in the reservoir.

In 1966, parks and forestry personnel, along with 225 boy scouts, planted 6,000 pine trees on five acres of land as part of a reforestation program at Round Valley. The program continued over the next few years.

FEATURES & ACTIVITIES

Round Valley Reservoir covers 2,350 acres and is more than 180 feet deep. It has a water capacity of 55 billion gallons. The 1,288-acre recreation area includes a swimming area, picnic facilities and wilderness campsites. The clear waters of the reservoir offer a variety of recreational activities throughout the year. Cushtunk Mountain, lying on a bed of igneous rock at the east end of Round Valley, rises almost 500 feet above the shoreline and 834 feet above sea level.



Swimming

Swimming is permitted, while lifeguards are on duty, during the summer season. The beach area includes changing rooms, restrooms, showers, a first-aid station and a concession building where food and beach supplies may be purchased. Inner tubes, rafts and other flotation devices are not permitted in the swimming area. Only a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) is allowed. There are two playgrounds and volleyball nets on the beach. Grilling is not permitted in the beach area. Pets are not permitted on the sand.



Picnicking

There are three picnic areas within the recreation area. The north and east picnic areas are located on tree-shaded grassy spots at each end of the beach; the west picnic area is on a hill overlooking the reservoir and the park. Each area offers picnic tables, grills, restroom facilities and playgrounds.



Boating

A boat launch, administered by New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife, is located north of the day use area. Launching is permitted with the ownership of a current fishing, hunting or trapping license or boat launch permit. Please contact the park office, or New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife at 908-735-8793, for further information. Sailboats, canoes and motorboats (up to 10 horsepower) are permitted. The launch in Round Valley's day use area is only for campers boating to their site. Round Valley has white, flashing wind warning lights on the north dam, south dam, public boat launch and at the center of the campground. **The lights flash when the sustained wind speed on the reservoir reaches 25 miles per hour at which time all boaters must clear the reservoir and proceed to the nearest shoreline.** To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, boaters should read the signs posted at the boat launch. A PFD is required for each person on board a watercraft. Boaters in vessels under 14 feet or in a canoe, kayak, inflatable boat or sailboard must wear their PFD. All boaters on vessels under 26 feet must wear a PFD in winter (Nov. 1 – May 1).



Winter Activities

There are sledding hills located near the park office, at the beach and east picnic area. Cross-country skiers can use snow-covered trails. Ice skating is not permitted. Ice boating and fishing are permitted.



Wilderness Camping

Campsites are open from April 1 through Oct. 31. Campsites are three to six miles from the south parking lot and can only be reached by boat or by hiking or mountain biking on a steep and rugged trail. Each site is a secluded clearing in the woods with a fire ring. All sites are pet friendly. Potable drinking water is available at hand-pumped spigots located at the north and south ends of Campground Trail. Campers should plan for a wilderness experience and bring back up water purification systems. Primitive restrooms are available along the trail. Advanced reservations can be made at camping.nj.gov. Same day reservations can be made at the park office. **All campers must check-in at the park office prior to 4 p.m.**



Hunting

Waterfowl hunting, deer bow hunting and deer shotgun hunting are permitted on a seasonal basis within specific areas of the park. All deer hunters are required to register at the park office. Waterfowl hunting is permitted by boat only. Please contact the park office for more information. Hunting is subject to New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife regulations.



Fishing

There are more than 20 species of fish inhabiting Round Valley Reservoir, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, as well as an abundance of lake trout. Rainbow trout are stocked annually. New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife manages the reservoir as a trophy trout lake. Round Valley Reservoir has special fishing regulations; anglers must follow the posted signs that apply. Fishing is subject to New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife regulations.



Scuba Diving and Snorkeling

Water clarity and rich aquatic life make Round Valley Reservoir one of the best freshwater lakes in New Jersey for scuba. All divers are required to register at the park office, have a dive buddy, inflatable vest and a dive flag. Diving is permitted from April 1 through Oct. 31. Scuba divers must be certified. Divers are required to check-in prior to a dive, check-out after each dive and comply with diving rules and hours.

Volunteering

Volunteers to maintain and improve Round Valley Recreation Area are welcome. For further information, please contact the park office.

Keep It Clean and Green
Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!



Pets

NOT PERMITTED
ATVs, alcoholic beverages, drones, smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this park.

*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.



Be Bear Aware

Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the park office. Visit New Jersey DEP Fish & Wildlife at njfishandwildlife.com/bears for additional information on bear safety.

ROUND VALLEY RECREATION AREA
1220 Stanton-Lebanon Road
Lebanon, N.J. 08833-3115
908-236-6355

Directions: From East: Route 78 West to Exit 20A. At the traffic light turn right for 22 West. At the next traffic light use the jug handle to cross Route 22 taking Round Valley Access Road. Park entrance is approximately 2 miles on the left.

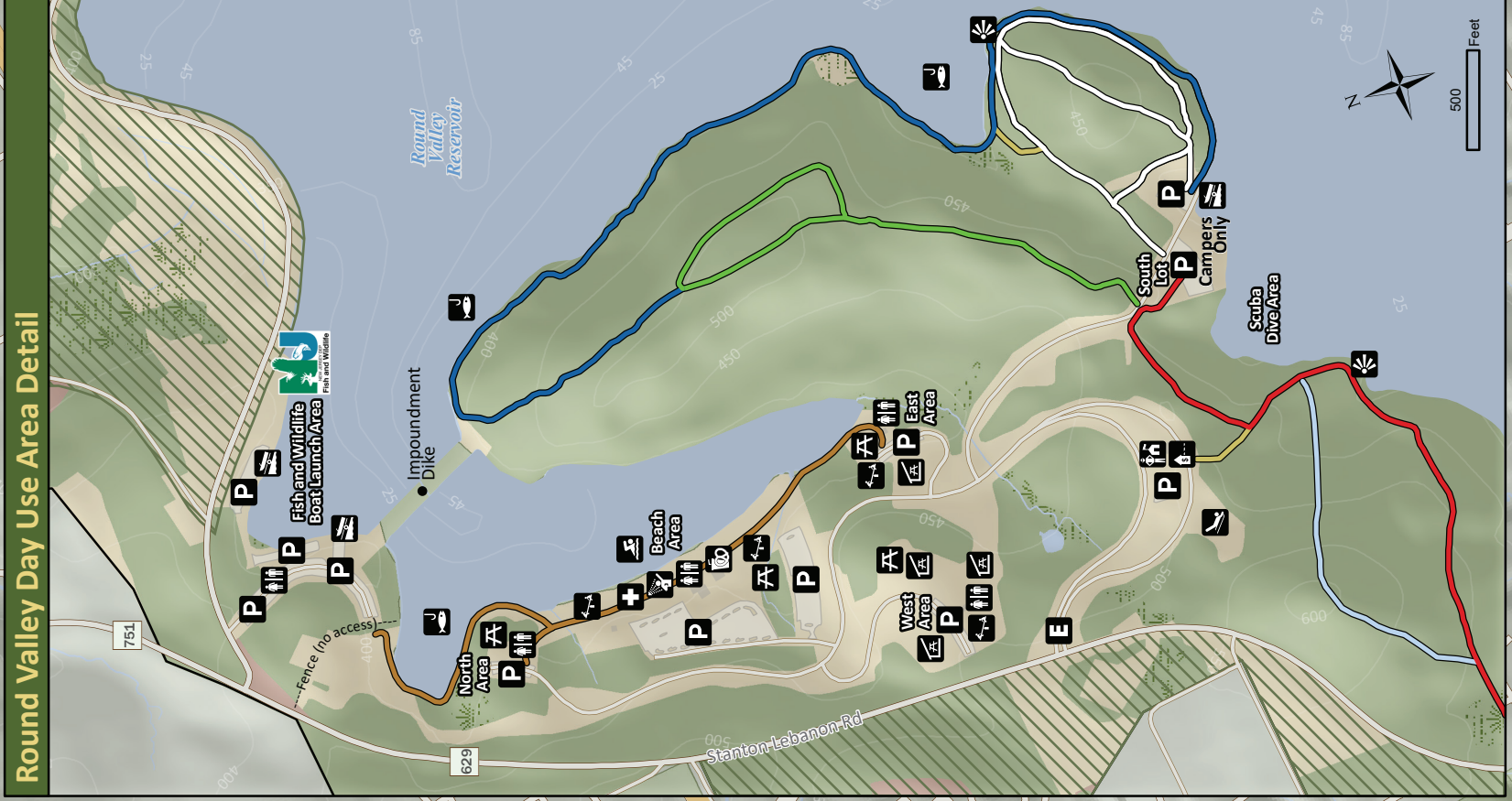
From Trenton: Take Route 31 North and turn right onto Route 618. At the stop sign, turn left onto County Route 629 (Lebanon-Stanton Rd.) Park entrance is approximately 3 miles on the right.

NJPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG
[FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTATEPARKS](https://www.facebook.com/newjerseystateparks)
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7/24 CMY

ROUND VALLEY Recreation Area

Round Valley Day Use Area Detail



- | Day Use Area | Round Valley Beach Area |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| | |

- Open Field or Grass
- Forest
- Developed Area
- Water
- Wetland
- Restricted Area

- Beach Promenade (0.6 mi)
- Campground Trail (3.5 mi)
- Cushtunk Trail (7.6 mi)
- Hike & Bike Trail (1 mi)
- Little Round Top Trail (0.4 mi)
- Pine Tree Trail (0.8 mi)
- Switchback Trail (0.5 mi)
- Water Trail (1.5 mi)
- Trail Connector

- Boat Launch
- Campground
- Concession
- Park Entrance
- Park Office
- Parking Lot
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Primitive Restrooms
- Restrooms
- Scenic View
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Sledging
- Swimming
- Visitor Contact Station