



Natural Areas in/Around Philadelphia

Valley Forge National Park (10 miles from the Desmond)

1400 N Outer Line Dr, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Valley Forge National Historical Park is the site of a Revolutionary War encampment, northwest of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania. Washington's Headquarters, a stone house on the Schuylkill River, was occupied by George Washington from 1777 to 1778. Trails connect the key monuments and historic structures, including the early-20th-century National Memorial Arch and the Muhlenberg Brigade's recreated log-cabin barracks.

Ridley Creek (12 miles from the Desmond)

1023 Sycamore Mills Rd, Media, PA 19063

Bicycle or hike along the 12 miles of trails that weave through [Ridley Creek State Park](#)'s 2,600 acres of woodlands and meadows. Dip a fishing line in trout-stocked Ridley Creek, or ride horseback on the 4.7-mile equestrian path. Visitors can enjoy lunch at hundreds of picnic tables in 14 different areas of the park.

Marsh Creek (14 miles from the Desmond)

675 Park Rd, Downingtown, PA 19335

Marsh Creek State Park is in the rolling hills of north central Chester County. The 1,784-acre park contains the 535-acre Marsh Creek Lake, which is a wonderful resource for fishing, sailing, and migrating waterfowl. The trails explore a variety of habitats including forest, field, and wetlands.

Evansburg State Park (16 miles from the Desmond)

851 May Hall Rd, Collegeville, PA 19426

Evansburg State Park is in southcentral Montgomery County between Norristown and Collegeville. Evansburg offers a significant area of green space and relative solitude in an urbanized area. Its

main natural feature, the Skippack Creek, has dissected the land into ridges and valleys that create feelings of enclosure and provide scenic views. The first European settlers were Mennonite farmers who powered their industries with the water of the Skippack. Even now, mill remnants, mill buildings, and houses from the eighteenth and nineteenth century dot the park landscape and serve as reminders of early American life. Today, the park is a quilt work of cropland, meadows, old fields, and mature woodlands that attracts day use visitors from the Montgomery County and Philadelphia areas. People come to the open play fields, picnic areas, trails, golf course, and the relatively tranquil, natural environment.

[Wissahickon Valley Park](#) (23 miles from the Desmond)

Valley Green Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19128

Wissahickon Valley Park is a large urban park that is located in Northwest Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States. It protects 2,042 acres of woodland surrounding the Wissahickon Creek between the Montgomery County border and the Schuylkill River.

[Fairmount Park](#) (24 miles from the Desmond)

Reservoir Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19119

With more than 2,000 acres of rolling hills, gentle trails, relaxing waterfront and shaded woodlands, Fairmount Park keeps a wealth of natural landscapes in East and West sections of the park, divided by the Schuylkill River. Fairmount Park boasts astounding examples of public art scattered throughout the grounds, including sculptures by masters including Cyrus E. Dallin, Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Randolph Rogers. Landmarks like the [Shofuso Japanese House and Garden](#), Historic Strawberry Mansion and [Fairmount Water Works](#) create an opportunity to appreciate history amidst the verdant surroundings.

[John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge](#) (28 miles from the Desmond)

8601 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19153

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of lands set aside for the benefit of native wildlife and plants. Established in 1972 through local activism, the refuge protects habitat for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Visitors to the refuge may observe hundreds of species of plants, trees, birds, insects and mammals.