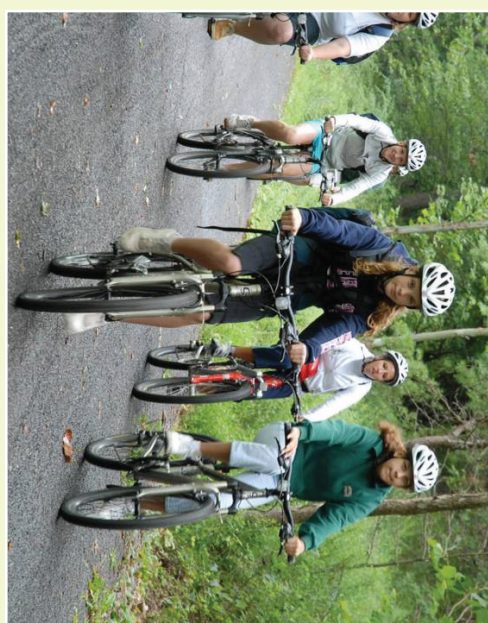


Rail Trail Guidelines
Hours of Use
 The trail is open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Overnight parking in designated areas is limited to persons with a valid camping permit.

General trail use is a daytime activity. Using the trail and parking areas after dark for legitimate activities like night fishing, night hikes, or night skiing in winter is allowed. However, unattended trail use after dark is not allowed, a rule which is strictly enforced.



Helmets
 State law requires all bike riders and passengers under the age of 12 to wear a helmet.

Emergencies
 Contact Scenic or Tioga County Communications Center by dialing 911.

Private Lands
 Trail users must respect the rights and privacy of adjoining private property owners. Please do not leave the trail or right-of-way through private property, except at clearly designated and marked exit and entry points.

Road Crossings
 Trail users must come to a complete stop and look both ways at all public road crossings. The trail is gated and signed at all such crossings. Private crossings may be gated, and are signed with stop or yield signs as appropriate.

Horses and Dogs
 Horse-drawn and motorized vehicles are permitted on the service road adjacent to the improved trail from Ansonia south to Tiadaghton. They are only permitted to utilize the improved trail designed for bicycles and skiers when crossing bridges. Unleashed dogs are not permitted on the trail right-of-way, in the parking areas, or campgrounds. Leashes must not exceed six feet in length.

Bridges
 Fishing, jumping or driving from, or climbing onto trail bridges is not permitted.



Alcohol
 Consumption of alcoholic beverages on the trail right-of-way is prohibited. Intoxication while operating a bicycle is a crime, as is public drunkenness in parking areas and camping areas or a trail right-of-way. These regulations are strictly enforced.

Firearms
 Firearms shall not be loaded while on the trail right-of-way, parking lots, or campgrounds, except between blackwell and Westhorn junction where use of the trail for hunting is at the discretion of the district forester. It is recommended that trail users wear blaze orange (hunter orange) during the fall hunting season, for personal safety.

Special/Commercial Use
 Special organized group or commercial use activity on the trail or trail right-of-way requires a Special Activity Agreement, Commercial Activity Agreement, or Letter of Authorization with the Department.



To plan your trip to the Pennsylvania Wilds, please contact the Pennsylvania Wilds Bureau of Forestry at 1-800-571-7420.

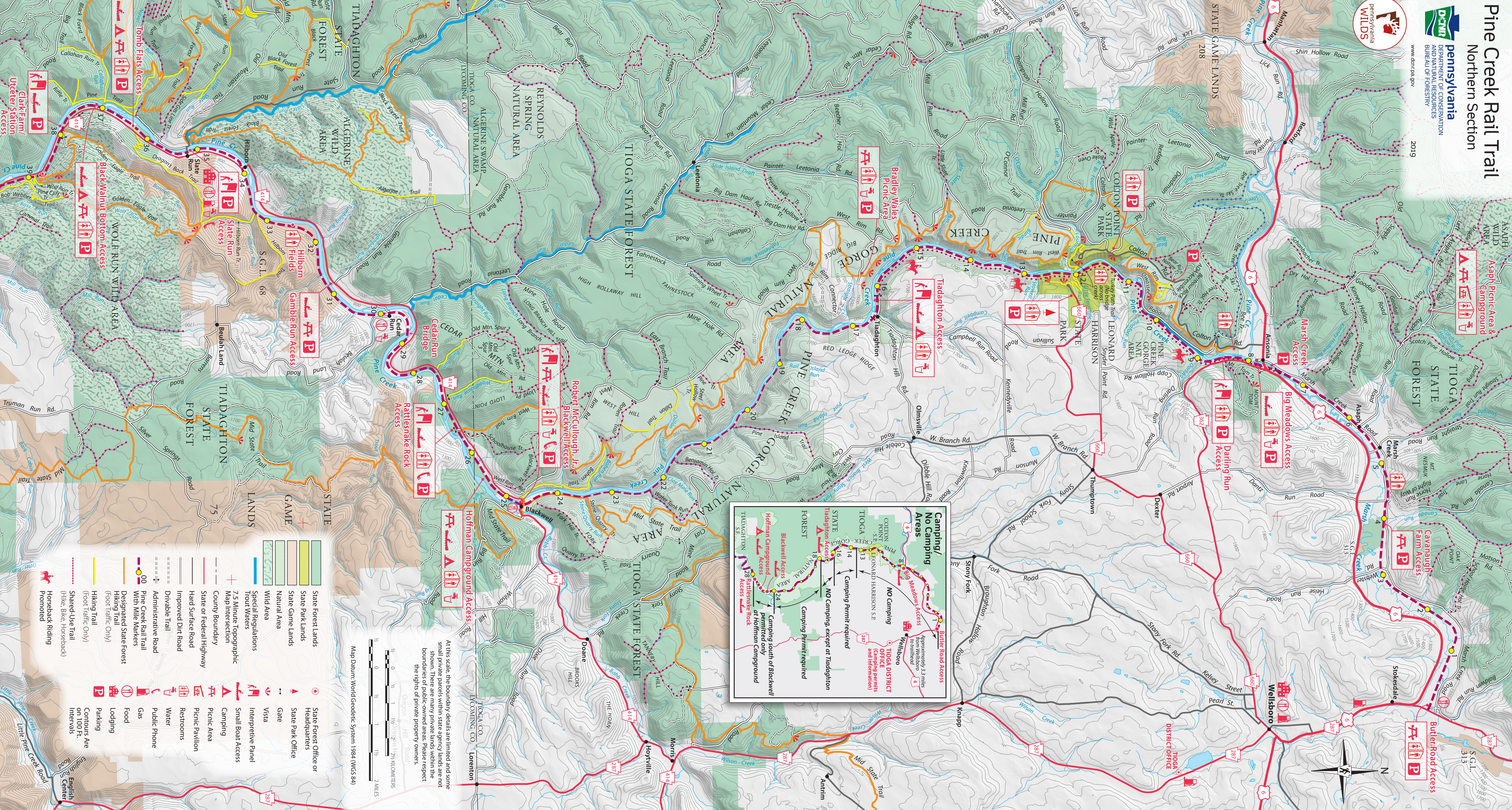
Wilds

pennsylvania
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pine Creek Rail Trail
 Northern Section



2019



Pine Creek Valley— a Natural Treasure

One of the most spectacular natural areas in Pennsylvania, Pine Creek Gorge is often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania." and was recognized as a National Natural Landmark in 1968. The Pine Creek Gorge begins near Ansonia, along US 6, and continues south for about 47 miles. At its deepest point, Pine Creek Gorge is 1450 feet deep and nearly one mile wide.

Why would a "Grand Canyon" be located in north-central Pennsylvania? It's all about geology and, more specifically, glaciers. Imagine a vast sheet of ice, hundreds of feet thick, inching over this landscape like a giant bulldozer. Several such glaciers sculpted this landscape. As the last glacier receded north more than 10,000 years ago, its meltwaters helped carve Pine Creek's deep gorge. Today, the creek's spring-fed waters continue to gradually deepen the canyon.

As you hike or bike along the Pine Creek Rail Trail, you'll see dramatic rock outcrops and numerous waterfalls, mountain streams, and deep forests of conifers and hardwoods. Though most of the old-growth pines and hemlocks were felled by the early 1900s, scattered ancient trees still dot the landscape, along with native red pine and American yew. This varied landscape is home to a tremendous diversity of plant and wildlife species. Take time in your travels to watch for bald eagles, ospreys, coyotes, deer, wild turkeys, herons, hawks, even river otters!



A Public Use Map For Pine Creek Rail Trail

Care for the Land
 State forests belong to the people of Pennsylvania. Take the time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect you and the forest. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free, and don't damage trees and other plants.

For Your Safety
 Please respect the state forest rules and regulations that have been established to protect you and natural resources. In the event of an emergency, call 911 for police, fire, ambulance, or search and rescue.

iConservePA
 To learn more about the state's natural resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto www.iConservePA.org.

Pennsylvania Wilds
 Within the heart of northcentral Pennsylvania lies a 12-county region with a deep connection to its past, with vast forests, small towns, welcoming people and authentic, natural experiences. That is what makes the Pennsylvania Wilds so special. We would like to share the secret of this area with folks so they can connect with nature, continue to protect what is revered by the citizens of this region and pursue and sustainably enjoy whatever recreation appeals to you. Come on in and discover the recreational opportunities within the Pennsylvania Wilds! Welcome!

Harrisburg Headquarters
 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Bureau of Forestry
 P.O. Box Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

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pennsylvania
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Wilds

What to Do While You're Here

State Forests
 The 146,262-acre Tiadaghton State Forest is located on the Allegheny Plateau, a rugged region deeply carved by stream valleys. Tiadaghton was the name the Iroquois gave to Pine Creek, the largest tributary of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Tiadaghton State Forest centers on the Pine Creek Valley. Here, mixed oak forests dominate the landscape, although northern hardwood forests of beech, birch, maple, ash, and black cherry cover the northern portion and some of its deep valleys.

The 165,052-acre Tioga State Forest contains valuable forest resources that provide a continuous supply of forest products for the local economy, as well as outstanding recreational opportunities, water for surrounding communities, and habitat for plant and animal species.

Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area, also known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, is 12,163 acres and comprises both sides of Pine Creek from just south of Ansonia to Blackwell, a distance of 18 miles.

Tiadaghton Forest District
 10 Lower Pine Bottom Rd.
 Waterville, PA 17776
 (570) 753-5409
 fd12@pa.gov

Tioga Forest District
 One Nessumuk Lane
 Wellsboro, PA 16901
 (570) 724-2868
 fd16@pa.gov

Biking and Horseback Riding
 Pine Creek Rail Trail's wide, lightly sloped, gravel surface offers easy biking that is well-suited for families. Individuals looking for a trail off the beaten path can utilize any of the "shared-use trails" that traverse Tioga and Tiadaghton state forests, as designated within the map legend. Please note that trails designated within the map legend as yellow are only open to foot travel.

Horseback riding and horse-drawn vehicles are permitted on the service road adjacent to the improved trail, from Ansonia south to Tiadaghton. Please refer to the Rail Trail Guidelines in this publication for further information about horseback riding.

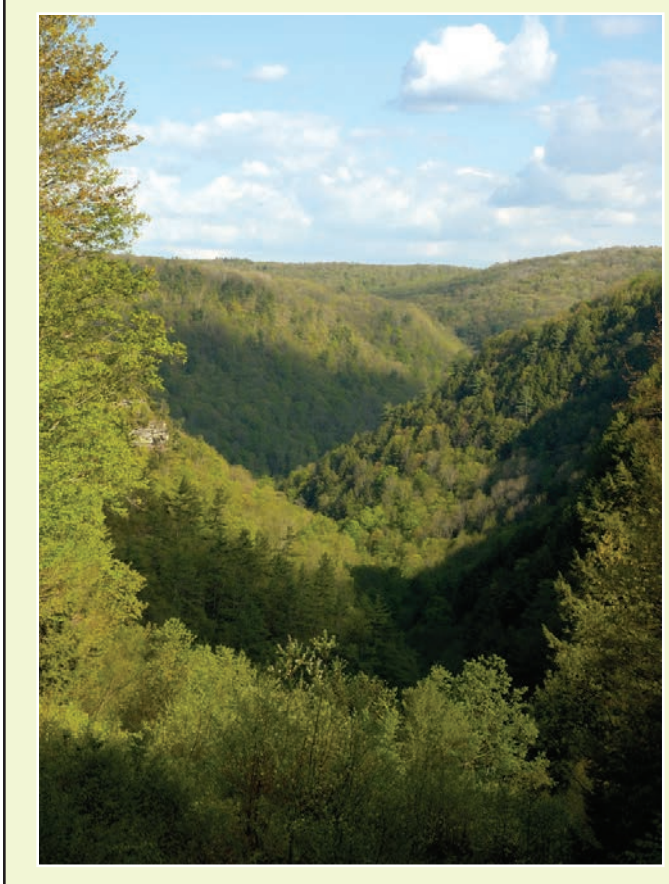
Hiking
 In addition to Pine Creek Rail Trail, many hiking trails traverse Pine Creek Valley's state forests. In Tioga State Forest, the West Rim Trail offers 30 miles of hiking along the western rim of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon. Many vistas have been cleared along the trail to provide views of Pine Creek Valley. The West Rim Trail connects with the Mid State Trail at Blackwell. Known as "the wildest trail in Pennsylvania," the Mid State Trail covers a total of 300 miles and crosses through both Tioga and Tiadaghton state forests.

Camping
 All camping along Pine Creek requires a camping permit and must take place at least 100 feet from waterways. Camping on the right-of-way or in trail parking areas is not permitted. Groups of 10 or more people must obtain a Letter of Authorization from the district forester in addition to a camping permit.

Tiadaghton State Forest: Primitive camping near the rail trail is permitted at Black Walnut Bottom Camping Area (2 miles south of Slate Run). Black Walnut Bottom offers picnic tables, fire rings and restrooms. Canoeists with permits may also camp at a limited number of sites at Naval Run, Callahan Run and at Bonnell Flat Camping Area. Permits are available at the district office, and can be issued in person, via US mail, or by fax.

Tioga State Forest: Primitive camping near the rail trail is permitted along Pine Creek at designated locations. Tiadaghton and Hoffman campgrounds offer picnic tables, fire rings, potable water, and restrooms. Permits are available at the district office, and can be issued in person, via US mail, or by fax.

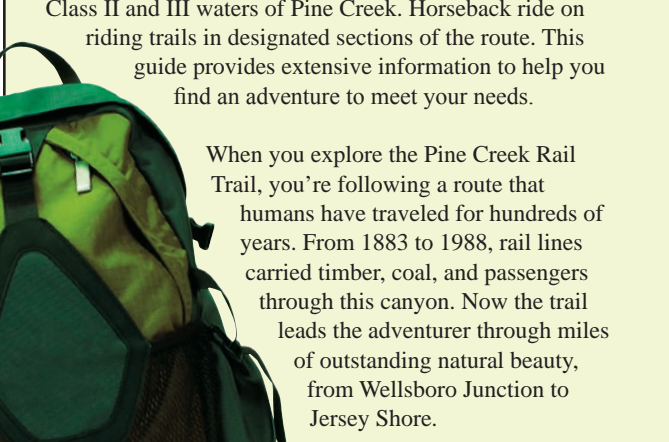
Rail Trail Accessibility
 The Pine Creek Rail Trail's gently graded, gravel surface provides accessibility for individuals with mobility restrictions.



Welcome to the Pine Creek Rail Trail,

a 62-mile, gently graded, gravel path that winds through the spectacular Pine Creek Gorge. Here you can hike, hike, cross-country ski, or snowshoe through some of Pennsylvania's most dramatic scenery. Raft or canoe the Class II and III waters of Pine Creek. Horseback ride on riding trails in designated sections of the route. This guide provides extensive information to help you find an adventure to meet your needs.

When you explore the Pine Creek Rail Trail, you're following a route that humans have traveled for hundreds of years. From 1883 to 1988, rail lines carried timber, coal, and passengers through this canyon. Now the trail leads the adventurer through miles of outstanding natural beauty, from Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore.



State Parks

Leonard Harrison State Park, on the east side of Pine Creek Gorge, encompasses 585 acres and offers modern facilities, a visitor center, and the most famous scenic views of the 800-foot deep canyon. Leonard Harrison of Wellsboro donated the park's original 121 acres to the commonwealth.

On the west side of Pine Creek Gorge, 368-acre **Colton Point State Park** holds the rustic charm of the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s. Named for Henry Colton, a lumberman who ran a logging camp in the canyon during the 1870s, Colton Point State Park lands were purchased by the state in 1903.

The 2,158-acre **Little Pine State Park** is surrounded by a beautiful mountain section of Tiadaghton State Forest. **Upper Pine Bottom State Park**, a small day use area along Route 44 west of Waterville, is maintained by Little Pine State Park as a parking area from which hunters and anglers can access Tiadaghton State Forest.

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks
4707 Route 660
Wellsboro, PA 16901-8970
(570) 724-3061
leonardharrisonsp@pa.gov

Little Pine and Upper Pine Bottom State Parks

4205 Little Pine Creek Road
Waterville, PA 17776
(570) 753-6000
littlepinesp@pa.gov



Hiking
Overlook Trail: 0.6-mile. This easy-to-moderate loop takes you to Otter View, a vista looking south. Along the trail, you'll see remnants of Civilian Conservation Corps projects of the 1930s, including a red pine plantation and a stone incinerator. Access the trail behind the main overlook area or bear to the left as you approach the overlook. Hikers can also access the trail from Schloder Pavilion Area.

Turkey Path Trail: 2 miles, down and back. This is a steep, narrow, hazardous trail. Please be extremely careful and stay on the trail. This challenging trail descends to the bottom of Pine Creek Gorge. The lower half of the trail passes several scenic waterfalls along Little Four-Mile Run. At the bottom, the trail intersects the Pine Creek Trail, which you can follow 3.5 miles north to Ansonia. While Colton Point State Park maintains its own Turkey Path that descends to the valley bottom just upstream from the Leonard Harrison path, there is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom and hikers are advised to think "safety first" if considering a crossing.

Colton Point State Park Camping

Rustic sites: The campground is open from the second Friday in April until the third Sunday in October. Rustic toilets, tables, fire rings, and a sanitary dump station are provided. Campsites at Colton Point are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organized Group Tenting: Qualified adult and youth groups may use this 90-person capacity area equipped with picnic tables from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October, weather permitting. Reservations are recommended. This area is rustic in nature, so no vehicles are permitted in the camping area.



Picnicking
About 100 picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also five reservable pavilions located throughout the park.

Photo: Marty Straub

Hiking

Colton Point Rim Trail: 1 mile. Not to be confused with the West Rim Trail, the Rim Trail follows the perimeter of the "point" and links all of the overlook view areas together into a wonderful, gently graded, easy hike. This walk is a favorite during peak laurel bloom time, usually mid-June to early-July. The loop can be completed by either walking Colton Road between the incinerator site and the main park area or by using the blue-blazed link trail to make a slightly shorter loop.



Leonard Harrison Turkey Path for more information.

Little Pine State Park Camping

The campground opens the first weekend in April and closes in mid-December. There are 104 modern campsites (many with electricity); 98 sites can accommodate trailer units up to 30 feet long, and six sites are for tents only. Open or shaded sites are along a stream. Each site has a picnic table, fire ring, and lantern holder. The campground has a sanitary dumping station, showers, flush toilets, and water outlets throughout the area.

Camping Cottages: The three cottages comfortably sleep five people. Each cottage has two sets of bunks, a small double bed, wooden floors, windows, porch, electric lights, heat, and outlets. Each site has a fire ring and picnic table.

Yurts: These two Mongolian-style, 20-foot diameter round tents built on a wooden deck have an electric stove, refrigerator, cabinets/counter, microwave oven, table/chairs, and electric heat. Each yurt sleeps five in two bunks. Each yurt site also contains a fire ring, picnic table, and lantern holder.

Organized Group Tenting: Four sites are available to adult and youth groups. Two sites hold 40 people and two sites hold 20 people. A paved parking lot, flush toilets, fire rings, and picnic tables are provided.

Picnicking

Four picnic areas in both shaded and open locations contain four picnic pavilions, many picnic tables, a volleyball court, and play equipment. Picnic pavilions may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. Unreserved picnic pavilions are free on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Lower Picnic Area is about one-half mile south of the campground. It is completely separated from the rest of the park. This six-acre area has picnic tables, grills, charcoal disposals, non-flush toilets, parking area, and a picnic pavilion.

Hiking

14 miles of trails traverse the park, including:

Button Ball Trail: 0.49-mile, easy hiking. This anglers' trail gives access to lower Little Pine Creek.

Carsontown Trail: 0.88-mile, easy hiking. This trail is recommended for families with small children. In spring, you may find a wide variety of wildflowers and an abundance of deer.

Lake Shore Trail: 5 miles, moderate hiking. The park's flattest trail, the Lake Shore Trail parallels the lake into the upper part of the park. Quiet walkers may see a wide variety of birds and animals along the way.

Panther Run Trail: 2.7 miles, difficult hiking. Beautiful vistas, rock outcroppings and a flagstone quarry can be seen along this trail, which many people consider the park's most scenic route.

Love Run Trail: 3.1 miles, difficult hiking. This trail connects Spikeback Hollow Trail with Love Run Road and Panther Run Trail. Watch for large hemlock trees by mountain springs along the trail.

Spikeback Hollow Trail: 2 miles, difficult hiking. Along this trail, you'll see picturesque vistas, outcroppings of rock, flagstone, and a wide variety of trees and understory plants.

Mid State Trail: This 300-mile backpacking trail, which runs from Bedford County to Tioga County, passes through the park, occasionally intersecting with park trails. This trail is steep and narrow in places, but well defined and marked. Visitors backpacking along the Mid State Trail who wish leave a vehicle in the park should notify park personnel. Name, address, proposed route, and expected return date are required.

Hunting and Firearms

About 1,700 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species include deer, squirrel, fox, bear, grouse, and turkey. Rifle/pistol range and an archery range are available. The adjacent state forest land is open to hunting.



Water Activities

Swimming: A sand beach with grass turf is open from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Fishing: The 94-acre Little Pine Lake has 3.3 miles of shoreline, and the park possesses 4.2 miles of streams. These warm- and cold-water fisheries have both stocked and native trout (brook, rainbow and brown), smallmouth bass, pickerel, sunfish, catfish, and perch. There is a special regulation, artificial-lure only, fishing area along Little Pine Creek in the northeast section of the park.

Boating: (electric motors only) The 94-acre Little Pine Lake has one launch area and 25 seasonal (April 1 to November 1) mooring spaces. A boat rental concession is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Paddleboats, canoes, and rowboats are available, as well as limited refreshments.

Winter Activities

Cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, tobogganing, and ice fishing information can be found at www.visitPAparks.com.



Pine Creek Valley History

Long before the first railroad tracks were laid through this valley, people traveled the rugged shorelines and swift waters of Pine Creek Path as a connection between the Great Shamokin Path (along the Susquehanna River) and the Iroquois settlements along the Genesee River in New York. Several seasonal hunting camps were established by the Senecas, one of which was located at the first fork of Pine Creek where Waterville is now located. In 1780, John English, a Scotch-Irish Revolutionary War veteran who had crossed the Delaware with George Washington, received this land as reward for his outstanding military service. He built a cabin on "English Island," the largest of the three islands in Pine Creek below its confluence with Little Pine Creek. The native peoples respected his ability to prosper in the wilderness, and lived in harmony with him. His descendants founded English Center, where one of the world's longest logging training operations would be built.

In the Pine Creek Valley had spread. By 1840, 145 sawmills were in operation in the Pine Creek watershed, but many were destroyed by the flood of 1852. By 1920, hardly a marketable tree was left standing. The majestic pines had become ship masts, the bark of massive hemlocks fed the furnaces of the American frontier.

In 1883, the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek & Buffalo Railroad was established to carry lumber from the sawmills in Tiadaghton, Cammell, and Slane Run. The railroad also transported coal north to New York, and by 1896 was carrying seven million tons of freight and ran three passenger trains daily between Waterville Junction and Williamsport. The railroad changed hands a few times, becoming the Falbrook Railroad (a branch of the New York Central Railroad), and the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania. The last freight before it was taken over by Conrail was freight before it was taken over by Conrail was freight ending more than a century of service.

The conversion of the railway to a public recreation trail has occurred in stages. The first segment, a 20-mile section from Ansonia south to Rattlesnake Rock, opened August 27, 1996. The second segment, which continues south from Rattlesnake Rock to Waterville, opened in June of 2001. The trail has been completed from Waterville south to Jersey Shore, and the segment from Ansonia north to Wellsboro Junction was completed in the spring of 2007.

To plan your trip to the Pennsylvania Wilds, please visit PAWilds.com or call 1-800-577-2029.

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