

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 those persons with a valid camping permit.

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



Helmets

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

Emergencies

Contact Lycoming 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.

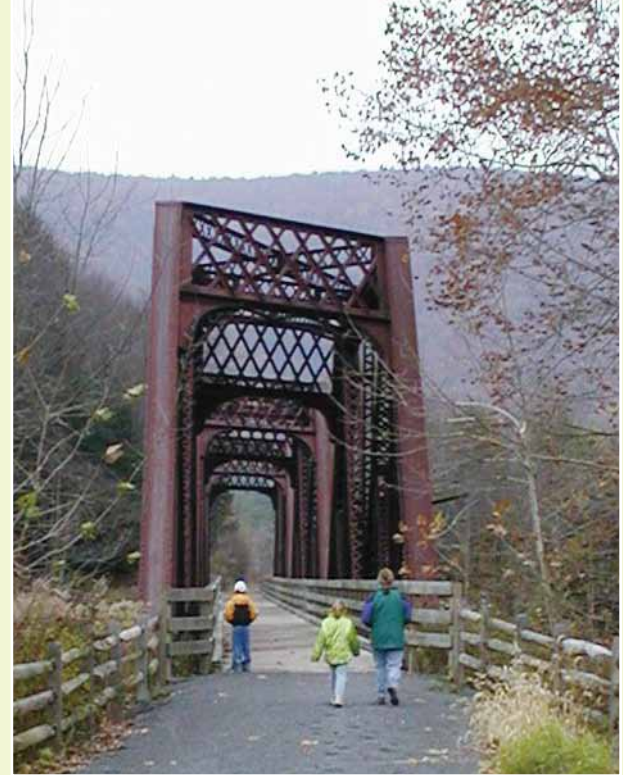
Horses and Dogs

Horseback riding and horse-drawn 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 diving 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 along the trail right-of-way, as well as on the trail right-of-way itself. These regulations will be vigorously enforced.

Firearms

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

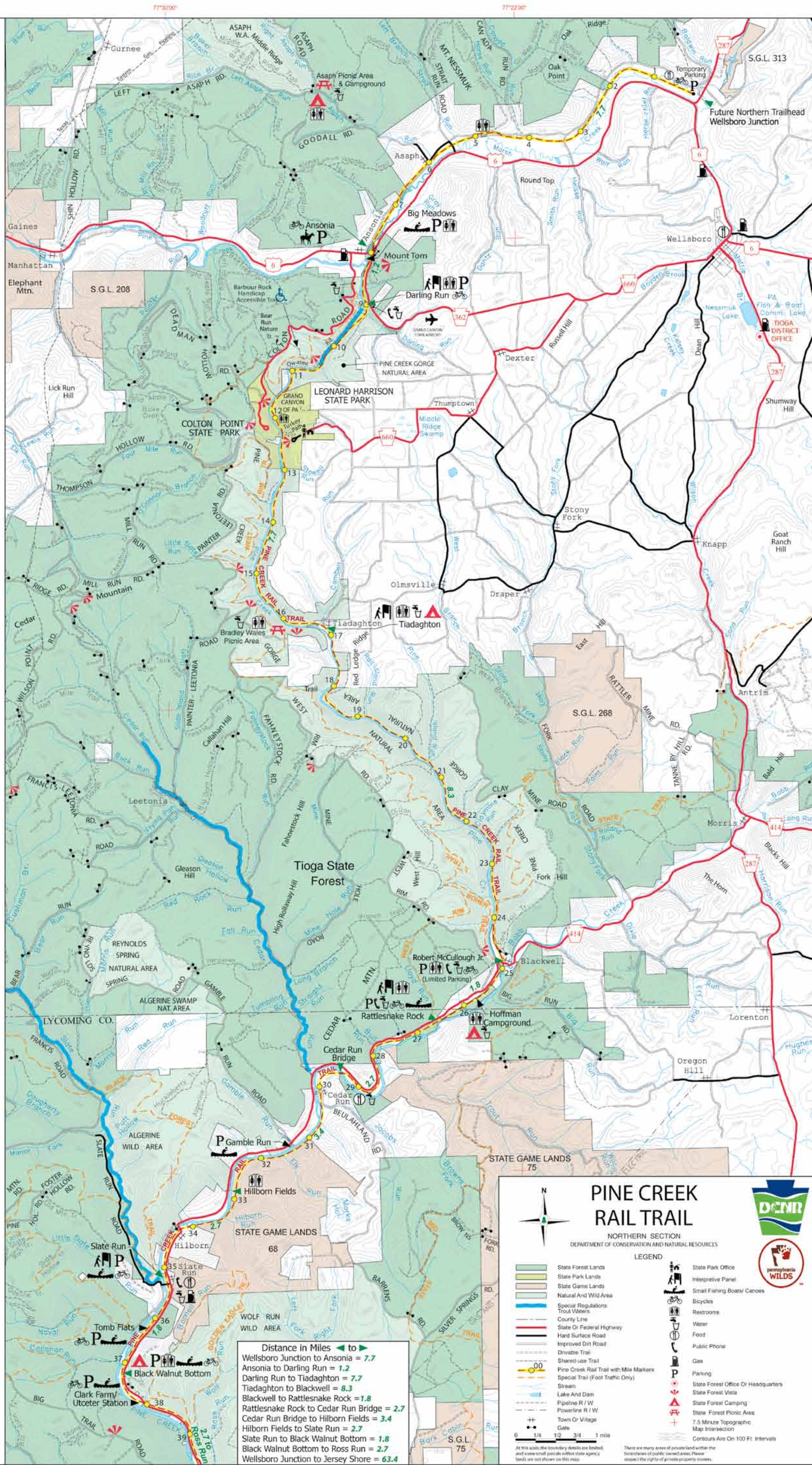
Special/Commercial

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 visit PAWilds.com or call 1-800-577-2029.

pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



State Trail covers a total of 300 miles and crosses through both Tioga and Tiddaghton state forests. In Tiadaghton State Forest, the 42-mile Black Forest Trail, named for the dense, dark virgin coniferous forests that originally covered the region, offers a challenging trek for would-be adventurers.

Canoeing
Canoeing facilities along Pine Creek have been developed by the Bureau of Forestry. Access areas and campsites can be found on the map included in this brochure. Water conditions on Pine Creek are indicated by the USGS gauging station at Cedar Run. The minimum, no-scraping readings for Pine Creek are: Ansonia to Camml, 3.0 feet; Camml to Waterville, 1.8 feet; Waterville to Rt. 220, 2.5 feet.

The current gauge reading is available online at <http://watercage.gov>. At high water levels, large waves capable of swamping boats may develop. The Pine Creek River is classified as a Class III river with frequent rapids and swift flowing water. Pine Creek below Rattlesnake Rock is generally considered a Class II river, with fairly frequent rapids of medium difficulty, having unobstructed passages and low ledges.

Camping
All camping along Pine Creek requires a camping permit! All permits are available for a fee of \$10.00 per night. 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.

Tioga 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 picnic tables, fire rings and restrooms. Campsites 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 is gently graded, gravelled surface provides accessibility for individuals with mobility restrictions.

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 of the state forest, as well as some of its deep valleys.

The 165,082-acre Tioga State Forest contains valuable forest resources that provide a continuing 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
(717) 724-2868
fd16@pa.gov

Biking & Horseback Riding

The Pine Creek Rail Trail is wide, lightly sloped, gravelled surface offers easy biking for families, individuals, and groups. The trail is a 62-mile, gently graded, gravelled path that winds through the heart of Pine Creek Valley. Here you can bike, hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe through some of Pennsylvania's most dramatic scenery. Rail or canoe the Class II and III waters of Pine Creek. Horseback riding on Tiadaghton. Please refer to the Rail Trail Guidelines in this publication for further information about horseback riding.

Horseback riding and horse-drawn 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.

Hiking

In addition to the Pine Creek Rail Trail, many hiking trails traverse the 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 the Pine Creek Valley. The West Rim Trail connects with the Mid State Trail at Blackwell. Known as "the widest trail in Pennsylvania," the Mid State Trail provides accessibility for individuals with mobility restrictions.



Welcome to the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

A 62-mile, gently graded, gravelled path that winds through the heart of Pine Creek Valley. Here you can bike, hike, cross-country ski or snowshoe through some of Pennsylvania's most dramatic scenery. Rail or canoe the Class II and III waters of Pine Creek. Horseback riding on Tiadaghton. Please refer to the Rail Trail Guidelines in this publication for further information about horseback riding.

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 adventurous through miles of outstanding natural beauty, from Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore.

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 protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don't damage the trees and other plants.

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

To learn more about the state forest rules and regulations, visit www.ConservePA.org or call 1-800-577-2029.

Pennsylvania Wilds

Within the heart of northeastern 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 you. Come and discover the recreational opportunities within the Pennsylvania Wilds! Welcome!

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

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." The Pine Creek Gorge National Natural Area, along U.S. 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, one of them being the 100-foot high and 100-foot wide and 100-foot deep waterfall. The most of the old-growth pine and hemlock trees still dot the landscape, along with native red pine and American sycamore. 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, coyote, deer, wild turkeys, herons, hawks or even one of the river otters recently reintroduced in the area.

