

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 for hundreds of years via footpath and canoe. The Seneca Indians used the 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 Scottish-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



found English Center, where one of the world's largest leather tanning operations would be built.

In the following years, hopeful settlers followed John English up Pine Creek, but only a few were hardy enough to scrape out an existence. By the 1820s, word of the vast stands of virgin timber in the Pine Creek Valley had spread. By 1840, 145 sawmills had been in operation in the Pine Creek watershed, but many were destroyed by the flood of 1832. By 1920, hardly a marketable tree was left standing. The majestic pines had become ship masts, the bark of massive hemlocks fed the leather tanning industry, and the hardwoods helped fuel the Industrial Revolution, thereby expanding the American frontier.



In 1883, the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek & Buffalo Railroad was established to carry lumber from the sawmills in Tiadaghton, Cammal and Slate Run. The railroad also transported coal north to New York State, and by 1896 was carrying seven million tons of freight and ran three passenger trains on daily runs between Wellsboro Junction and Williamsport. The railroad changed hands a few times, becoming the Fallbrook Railroad, a branch of the New York Central Railroad, and the Penn Central before it was taken over by Conrail. The last freight train passed through the gorge on October 7, 1988, 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.



Distance in Miles

Black Walnut Bottom to Ross Run	2.7
Ross Run to Cammal	3.1
Cammal to Dry Run	5.4
Dry Run to Waterville	2.3
Waterville to Bonnell Flats	4.3
Bonnell Flats to Torbert Bridge	3.1
Torbert Bridge to Torbert	0.6
Torbert to Jersey Shore	2.4
Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore	63.4

PINE CREEK RAIL TRAIL
SOUTHERN SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGEND

State Forest Lands	State Park Office
State Park Lands	Interpretive Panel
State Game Lands	Small Fishing Boats/Canoes
Natural And Wild Area	Bicycles
Special Regulations	Restrooms
Trout Waters	Water
County Line	Food
State Or Federal Highway	Public Phone
Hard Surface Road	Gas
Improved Dirt Road	Parking
Divisible Trail	State Forest Vista
Shared-Use Trail	State Forest Camping
Pine Creek Rail Trail with Mile Marker	Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center
Special Trail (Foot Traffic Only)	7.5 Minute Topographic Map Intersection
Stream	
Lake And Dam	
Pipeline R / W	
Powerline R / W	
Town Or Village	
Gate	

AT THIS SCALE, THE BOUNDARY DETAILS ARE LIMITED AND SOME SMALL PARCELS WITHIN STATE AGENCY LANDS ARE NOT SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

THERE ARE MANY AREAS OF PRIVATE LAND WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF PUBLIC OWNED AREAS. PLEASE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS.

0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 mile
CONTOURS ARE ON 100 FT. INTERVALS

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

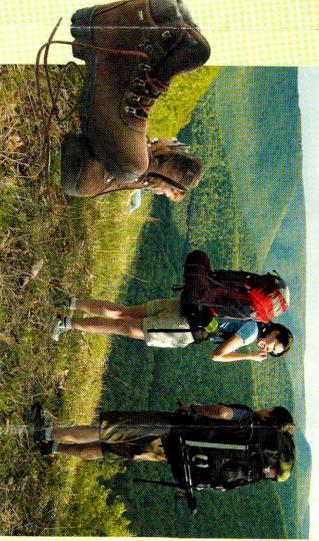


State Parks

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks
The State Park is a parking area from which hikers and anglers can access Tiadaghton State Forest.

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks
Wellsville, PA 16901-8970
(570) 724-3061
leonardharrisonpa.gov

Little Pine and Upper Pine Bottom State Parks
4205 Little Pine Creek Road
Waterville, PA 17776
(570) 753-6000
littlepinepa.gov



Information and Reservations for State Parks
For general state park information or to reserve a complete, camping package, please call 1-800-PA-PARKS or visit www.visitpa.com. Make online reservations at www.visitpa.com or call toll-free 1-888-PA-PARKS, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Environmental education and interpretive programs are offered at Leonard Harrison, Colton Point, and Little Pine State Parks.

For more information about all state parks visit www.visitpa.com.

Leonard Harrison State Park
Camping
The campground is open from the second Friday in April until the third Sunday in October and offers modern sites, some with electricity, as well as picnic tables, fire rings, water, flush toilets, showers and sanitary dump station.

Picnicking
Many picnic tables (seven of which are covered), charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water and garbage containers are available. The Shelter Pavilion can be reserved for a fee. If reserved, the pavilion is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organized Group Camping
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 general use. There are also five reservable pavilions located throughout the park.

Picnic Photo: Marty Strahl

Overlook Trail: 0.5-mile
This easy-to-overlook loop takes you to Ober 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 Schelder Pavilion Area.

Trail Photo: Marty Strahl
This is a scenic view of the valley from 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 follows 3.5 miles north to Ansonia. While Colton Point State Park remains its own Turkey Point that descends to the valley bottom just upstream from the Leonard Harrison park, there is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom and hikers are advised to think "safety first" if considering a crossing.

Hiking
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Waterfalls
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