



Trough Creek State Park

The 541-acre Trough Creek State Park is a scenic gorge formed as Great Trough Creek cuts through Terrace Mountain before emptying into Raystown Lake. Rugged hiking trails lead to wonders like Balanced Rock and Rainbow Falls. Rothrock State Forest and Raystown Lake National Recreation Area border the park, making a large, contiguous area of public land for recreation.

Directions

The park can be reached from Huntingdon by traveling 16 miles south along PA 26, then five miles east along PA 994 near the village of Entriken.

Reservations

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

Recreational Opportunities

CAMPING: 29 sites, all with electricity

The campground opens in mid-April and closes in mid-December. The camping area accommodates any size camper and has a rustic restroom with no showers. Each site has an electric hookup, picnic table and campfire ring. Most sites have a separate crushed stone tent pad. Pets are permitted at designated campsites. A sanitary dump station is next to the park office.

TROUGH CREEK LODGE: This renovated, historic, two-story, stone home is available for rental year-round. The stone was covered with stucco and scribed to look like brick, a common practice when the home was built.

Originally constructed in the mid-1800s as an ironmaster's home, it has a modern eat-in kitchen, two bathrooms, four bedrooms and central heat. The home has spacious porches, yard areas and sits atop a hill overlooking Paradise Furnace. The lodge is accessible for people with disabilities.

HIKING: 12 miles of trails

See HIKING section, reverse side.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 100 acres are open to hunting, trapping and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, grouse and squirrel. Trough Creek State Park adjoins Rothrock State Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands, which are open for hunting. The gate on Old Forge Road is open during hunting season to give access to forest lands.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during



Natural History

Trough Creek State Park is in the Valley and Ridge Province of the Appalachian Mountains. Once a great mountain range, weathering and running water reduced the Appalachians into long, narrow, sweeping ridges. Great Trough Creek carved away at the ridges creating the unique geologic features seen today. The gorge is still undergoing slow geologic changes as Great Trough Creek continues to erode the valley.



ICE MINE: While building a railroad line, workers likely discovered cold air flowing from the mountain side, a natural refrigerator. In the 1930s, the CCC developed the site as one of three tourist ice mine sites in the state.

In winter, cold air diffuses into spaces between the rocks of the hillside. In spring and summer, cold air flows down through the spaces between the rocks and into Ice Mine. In the past, this caused snowmelt and moisture in the air to refreeze in the entrance of Ice Mine. Today, little ice forms in Ice Mine, likely because the stone wall around Ice Mine blocks the snowmelt. During the spring and summer, visitors can still experience the chill of winter by stepping down into Ice Mine.

History

The Appalachian Mountains blocked the movement of settlers from the east, delaying the settlement of the Great Trough Creek Gorge until Nicholas Crum traveled northeast from Baltimore in 1785. Crum harnessed the power of the creek with a turbine gristmill to grind grain. George Knoblough followed and in 1789 built a short-lived bloomery to smelt iron.



Attracted by the gorge's natural resources of iron ore, limestone, trees and water power, Rueben Trexler, an ironmaster from Berks County, Pennsylvania, constructed a bloomery in 1818. Trexler partnered with his father-in-law Jacob Lesher, another Berks County Ironmaster, to build Trough Creek Furnace which produced far more pig iron than the bloomery. Charcoal fueled the furnace, requiring an acre a day of trees to produce the charcoal required.

John Savage, of Philadelphia, leased the furnace in 1832, renaming it Mary Ann Furnace, and built Savage Forge to process the pig iron into bar iron. William Firmstone, an Englishman with knowledge of European iron making techniques, managed the furnace. In 1835, for the first time in the United States, good iron was produced using coke as fuel at Mary Ann Furnace. The process lasted for one month, then ceased, likely due to the lack of coke or the high cost. Mary Ann Furnace continued smelting iron with charcoal until the 1850s or 1860s.

The demand for iron created by the American Civil War led Horatio Trexler, son of Rueben, to rename the furnace Paradise Furnace and return it to blast in 1865. The end of the Civil War and the resultant economic downturn led to Paradise Furnace going out of blast for the final time 1869.

WATCHING WILDLIFE: Trough Creek Drive is a great place to see woodland birds, like scarlet tanager, veery, waterthrush, nuthatch, vireo, wood-pewee, chickadee and pileated woodpecker.

Hiking trails are avenues to see spring wildflowers and hear or see spring warblers. Trails are lined with mountain laurel, which blooms in mid-June, and rhododendron, which blooms in early July.

Copperhead, timber rattlesnake and five-lined skink can often be found sunning on rock outcrops throughout the park. Skinks also sun on the old dam. Black bear, white-tailed deer and turkey are often seen along Little Valley Road, just before entering the park. Osprey and bald eagles often fish Great Trough Creek, especially at the northern end of the park.



BALANCED ROCK: This huge boulder is perched on the edge of a cliff, looking ready to fall off at any moment into Great Trough Creek far below. Balanced Rock, an "erosion remnant," has hung there for thousands of years. The rock was once part of a cliff with layers of hard and soft rocks. Soft rocks below Balanced Rock eroded away first, easing Balanced Rock into its current position.

All of the other rocks of the cliff eroded away or fell over the cliff, leaving only Balanced Rock. To preserve the natural beauty of Balanced Rock, please do not spray paint or vandalize any natural features.

In 1910, the partnership of Caprio and Grieco established a logging railroad from Marklesburg, Pennsylvania, to Paradise Furnace, a distance of eight miles. At Paradise Furnace, a sawmill produced mine props, timber, and railroad ties from the second-growth timber of the valley.

In 1913, the railroad incorporated as the Juniata and Southern Railroad and extended the rail line seven miles to reach the Broad Top Coal and Mineral Company's mine at Jacobs, Pennsylvania. In 1917, the mine closed and the timber was depleted. The railroad was dismantled and scrapped. Due to the need for metal for World War I, the scrap sold for more than the original cost to build the railroad. With the loss of its trees, the land was prone to floods and forest fires.

In 1933, to relieve the rampant unemployment of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The young men in the CCC received food, clothes and a small paycheck in return for building roads, trails and recreational facilities, fighting forest fires, planting trees, and performing many other conservation activities.



In June of 1933, Company 1331 arrived and lived in tents while they built Camp S-57, named Camp Paradise Furnace. The young men planted trees, constructed roads and trails and created Trough Creek State Park, which opened in 1936. World War II ended the CCC and Camp S-57 closed in 1941.



RAINBOW FALLS: The waters of Abbot Run cascade in a lovely waterfall that is easily viewed from Abbot Run Trail. The waterfall is best viewed in the early spring and after a heavy rain.



COPPERAS ROCKS: Copperas Rocks is named for the coppery-yellow stain on the cliff surface. The crystalline, yellow precipitate is ferrous sulfate that leaches from a small pocket of coal. Although this substance is one of the main pollutants in abandoned mine drainage, the small quantity here is not harmful to the stream. Early settlers possibly used ferrous sulfate as a mordant for setting the dye color in cloth.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau. www.raystown.org

THE ALLEGHENIES: Stretching more than 4,600 square miles across Pennsylvania, the Alleghenies is a region of ancient mountains, rushing streams, sparkling lakes and endless miles of trails and roadways. It is a land of rich history, remarkable scenery and abundant wildlife, where hikers, cyclists, anglers, birders and boaters can find adventure. www.thealleghenies.com

WARRIORS PATH STATE PARK: About 12 miles southwest of Trough Creek State Park, just off of PA 26, in Saxton, Bedford County, is Warriors Path State Park. This day-use park is on a peninsula created by a large meander of the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River. Picnicking, river fishing and hiking are popular recreational activities. 814-658-3847

ROTHROCK STATE FOREST: Over 97,000 acres of state forest land in Huntingdon County provides wooded land for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and low-impact recreation. 814-643-2340

RAYSTOWN LAKE: This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation area encompasses a 30-mile long, 8,300 surface acre lake and surrounding 21,000 acres of land. Raystown offers campgrounds, unlimited horsepower boating, marinas, beaches, scenic overlooks and trails. 814-658-3405

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital
1225 Warm Springs Avenue
Huntingdon, PA 16652
814-643-2290

Trough Creek State Park



For More Information Contact:

Trough Creek State Park
16362 Little Valley Road
James Creek, PA 16657-9302
GPS DD: Lat. 40.31192 Long. -78.12984
814-658-3847
email: troughcreeksp@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday to Saturday, for state park information
and reservations.

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Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

- Please camp only in designated areas and try to minimize your impact on the campsite.

- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood - Burn It!

- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged or crated.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.

Hiking: 12 miles of trails

The hiking trails of Trough Creek State Park are famous for their beauty and scenic views. Sections of the trails are steep and narrow with rocks and roots covering the surface. Some trails follow rock ledges with vertical cliffs and pass through boulder fields and narrow ravines. Hikers should use extreme caution and wear sturdy hiking boots with ankle support. Trail conditions may be slippery when wet or icy depending on weather conditions. Children must be supervised at all times.

Tell us about your hike at:



ABBOT RUN: 0.18 mile, white blazes, more difficult hiking
Beginning at the suspension bridge, this trail follows Abbot Run up out of Great Trough Creek Gorge past the trail to Balanced Rock to Old Forge Road.

BALANCED ROCK: 0.12 mile, green blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail starts at Trough Creek Drive. It passes over Great Trough Creek via a suspension bridge then past beautiful Rainbow Falls. The trail ascends a flight of CCC-built stone steps overlooking Abbot Run and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock.

BOULDER: 1.05 miles, red blazes, more difficult hiking
Starting at Ice Mine, Boulder Trail follows an old logging road up the mountain through an oak and hemlock forest and ends at the suspension bridge parking lot.

BRUMBAUGH: 2.4 miles, orange blazes, most difficult hiking
Starting at Balanced Rock, this trail rises and falls through spectacular forest scenery along the hillsides and ridges, including a beautiful view of Raystown Lake. This trail ends along Old Forge Road and Terrace Mountain Trail below the old park dam.

CEMETERY: 0.28 mile, orange blazes, more difficult hiking
Starting at the Paradise Furnace ruins, this trail crosses a small stream on a wooden bridge then begins a moderate climb to the 17th century Paradise Furnace Cemetery.

COPPERAS ROCK: 0.43 mile, red blazes, more difficult hiking
Starting along Trough Creek Drive at Copperas Rock, this

trail climbs a fairly steep and rocky slope through oak and hemlock trees and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 2.5-mile loop by following Ledges Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail back to Copperas Rock Trail just above the parking lot.

LAUREL RUN: 1.8 miles, green blazes, more difficult hiking
Starting along Trough Creek Drive, this scenic trail meanders across Laurel Run numerous times on rustic bridges in between two ridges and into state forest land, then crosses Terrace Mountain Road and ends with a moderate incline to Boulder Trail.

LEDGES: 0.91 mile, blue blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail starts at Trough Creek Drive below the park office and ends at Abbot Run Trail. The highlights of this trail are

the panoramic view of Great Trough Creek Gorge and the remnants of the old Paradise Furnace schoolhouse.

RAVEN ROCK: 0.32 mile, yellow blazes, more difficult hiking
This trail starts near the upper end of Abbot Run Trail. It takes hikers by the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock, and ends along Trough Creek at the base of Raven Rock where hikers will need to turn around to return to Balanced Rock. Raven Rock is the cliff site that local legend says was a favorite nesting site for ravens.

RHODODENDRON: 0.6 mile, green blazes, more difficult hiking
Starting at Copperas Rock Trail and ending at the suspension bridge, Rhododendron Trail takes hikers up and down from ridge top to valley floor. The steepest portion of the trail is

very rocky and requires cautious hiking. The trail is named for the beautiful rhododendrons that line the trail and bloom in early July.

TERRACE MOUNTAIN: 29 miles, blue blazes, more difficult hiking
Terrace Mountain Trail traverses the eastern side of Raystown Lake, from Weavers Falls in the south to Corbins Bridge north of the dam. The trail provides hiking and backpacking spanning some of the area’s most remote and challenging terrain. The trail crosses state park, state forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands.
Rothrock State Forest: 814-643-2340
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: 814-658-3405

