

HIKING: 38 miles



**Appaloosa Trail: 3.0 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, equestrian

The trail winds along rolling forested hills and passes an old homestead and springhouse. The trail head starts at the Nichol Road parking lot off PA 168 and ends along Pioneer Camp Road near the Riders Ridge Picnic Area. Connector trails lead to the Pioneer Group Tenting Area and backpacking campsites.

**Appaloosa Spur Trail: 0.7 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, equestrian

This trail connects the equestrian trailhead parking lot off PA 168 to the Appaloosa Trail.

**Beach Trail: 0.3 mile | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking  
**Trailhead amenities:** modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

This steep trail connects the D Loop of the campground to the beach and swimming area of Raccoon Lake. A spur trail from Beach Trail connects to the F loop in the campground.

**Buckskin Trail: 1.0 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, equestrian

This loop trail begins and ends on Nichol Road and winds through a mixed forest of evergreens and deciduous trees.

**Camp Trail: 1.8 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | White blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

Camp Trail starts at the Camp Trailhead parking area and briefly follows Cabin Road before entering the forest. The open, older-aged forest offers a wide view along the stream valley mixed with hemlocks, oaks, and rocky terrain. The trail ends at Pinto-Loop Trail.

**Forest Trail: 6.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | White blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, backpacking

Forest Trail transects several stream valleys that feed Raccoon Lake and passes through an old stone quarry and homestead sites. High ridges offer scenic views of the lake and valleys. Diverse tree species create an exceptional fall foliage display.

**Heritage Trail: 9.5 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes**

**Recreations permitted:** hiking, backpacking

The longest trail in the park, Heritage Trail passes through the property and old homesteads of the first European settlers to the area. Sections of the trail follow old wagon roads, the historic Frankfort Mineral Springs, and evergreen tree plantations planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

**Heron Trail: 0.5 mile | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Orange blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This short trail connects Wetlands Trail to Nichol Road and Palomino Trail near Sioux Rustic Campground. At the junction with Wetland Trail, look for wildlife near the wetlands.

**Lake Trail: 1.9 miles | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Blue blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

The trail follows an old road along Traverse Creek which leads to Raccoon Lake on the north shore opposite the beach area. It connects to Forest Trail, which can be used to make a loop hike. During the 1800s, a gristmill, stone springhouse, and several homesteads were along Traverse Creek.

**Mineral Springs Loop: 1.2 miles | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | White blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This trail passes through one of the park's historic areas, once known for the "healing qualities of the mineral water." The remnants of the 1800s Frankfort Mineral Springs Resort are located above the springs.

**Nichol Road: 3.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | No blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing recommended

This old road serves as the gateway to most of trails in the western section of the park.

**Palomino Trail: 1.1 miles | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, equestrian

Palomino Trail follows an old roadbed for most of its length. It begins and ends on Nichol Road.

**Pinto Loop Trail: 1.7 miles | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes**

**Recreations permitted:** hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing recommended

This wide trail has sections that follow an old wagon road through small forest meadows. These features make it an excellent cross-country skiing trail.

**Raccoon Loop Trail: 20 miles | More Difficult hiking | Loop trail | Green diamonds**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

The Heritage, Forest, and Appaloosa trails combine with Lakeside Lodge Road to make up the park's Raccoon Loop Hiking Trail. Access to backpacking shelters and tenting sites are along the trail.

**Upland Trail: 0.6 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

This short trail begins across from the park office and ends at Mineral Springs Loop Trail. Continue on Mineral Springs Loop Trail for a longer hike.

**Valley Trail: 1.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

Cut in along a steep section of Traverse Valley, the trail passes through an open hardwood forest and ends at the Beach Trail above the Raccoon Lake beach area and below the campground.

**Wetlands Trail: 1.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Green blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking

Wetland Trail begins along Cabin Road near the Camp Trail Parking Area and follows Traverse Creek. Look for wildlife in the wetland areas.

**X-C Trail: 2.1 miles | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | White blazes**  
**Recreations permitted:** hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Accessed from a small parking area along Raccoon Park Road, the trail loops through pine forest and small meadows.

DOAK FIELD

Doak Field is named for Robert Doak who was born in Ireland in 1750 and immigrated to eastern Pennsylvania in 1767. In 1772, he arrived here and began homesteading until enlisting in the Colonial Army during the Revolutionary War in 1776. After the war, he met and married Sarah McKibben. Their 800-acre homestead was soon busy with ten children helping with the many chores.

The farm was handed down to Robert and Sarah's descendants. The last Doak to live on the farm was Emma, who married Victor Nickles.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT



Raccoon Creek State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs. The Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center has exhibits and brochures on natural history and historic areas of the park.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center at 724-899-3611, or explore the online calendar of events, <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Many opportunities exist at Raccoon Creek State Park to see a variety of wildlife. When observing wildlife, remember to maintain a safe distance and never feed wild animals.

For birds, the Audubon Trail in the Wildflower Reserve is great for warblers. Waterfowl are abundant around Raccoon Lake and Wetland Trail. In winter, large flocks of turkeys are often seen near the campground and roadside picnic areas.

White-tailed deer and raccoons are common throughout the park. Most of the larger stream valleys have active beavers, muskrats, and mink. In the more remote western side of the park, you may encounter red foxes, skunks, and opossums.



Photo by William Cassidy  
Bald eagle

