

HIKING: 13 miles

Cameron Trail: 0.5 mile, more difficult hiking

This very steep, boundary trail on the south end of the park ends atop Cove Mountain. The CCC built this trail for firefighting access to Buchanan State Forest.

Doe Trail: 0.2 mile, easiest hiking

This short spur trail connects Parking Lot 7 with North Logging Road Trail above Camping Area B.

Geyer Trail: 0.5 mile, most difficult hiking

A rather steep boundary trail that passes through areas of mountain laurel, Geyer Trail starts along Aughwick Road then climbs Tuscarora Mountain to Tuscarora Trail.

North and South Logging Road Trails: 1.7 miles, easiest hiking

This old logging road can be walked from one end of the park to the other and is a good trail to use to make loop hikes with other trails on

the side of Cove Mountain. Steep trails must be hiked to reach these trails.

Horseshoe Trail: 0.5 mile, most difficult hiking

A very steep and rugged trail, Horseshoe Trail passes over loose stones on steep slopes. The trail starts at the intersection of Tuscarora Trail below the park dam and climbs to the top of Cove Mountain ending on Knobsville Road Trail. Experienced hikers only!

Knobsville Road Trail: 1.3 miles, more difficult hiking

Beginning just south of the lake, this old road climbs up and over Cove Mountain to the park boundary. Knobsville Road Trail passes a CCC-era incinerator, a landslide wayside, and an overlook of the park. At the park boundary, there are many trail options to extend the hike or loop back to the trailhead south of the lake.

Lakeside Trail: 1.5 miles, easiest hiking

This very pleasant, nearly level, scenic trail encircles Cowans Gap Lake. The most popular trail in the park, it can be accessed from many areas and trails.

One Mile Trail: 0.4 mile, easiest hiking

Shaded by mountain laurel, this trail begins along Aughwick Road just above the park office, then winds along the bottom of Tuscarora Mountain to join Three Mile Trail. For a one-mile hike, hikers can follow Three Mile Trail to the left, returning to Aughwick Road across from Parking Lot 3, then follow Aughwick Road back to the beginning of One Mile Trail.

Plessinger Trail: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking

A rocky, streamside trail that meanders alongside Aughwick Creek, Plessinger Trail provides access for anglers and is a pleasant

walk for wildlife watchers. The south end of the trail can be muddy.

Three Mile Trail: 1.1 miles, more difficult hiking

This trail begins along Aughwick Road across from the upper end of Camping Area A. The trail wanders through mountain laurel on the side of Tuscarora Mountain and is a nice trail to walk in June when the mountain laurel is in bloom. Be aware; a short, 200-foot section of the trail is very steep.

Standing Stone Hiking Trail: 84 miles (2.4 miles in the park), orange blazes, most difficult hiking

Starting at the Cowans Gap Lake spillway, this trail goes north to Greenwood Furnace State Park. Part of the Great Eastern Trail system, Standing Stone Trail offers beautiful vistas and a challenging experience to the seasoned hiker. This trail connects to

Mid State Trail, Tuscarora Trail, and the Appalachian Trail. Overnight parking is only permitted at the park office, and backpackers must fill out an overnight parking permit, which is available at the park office.

Tuscarora Trail: 110 miles (2 miles in the park), blue blazes, more difficult hiking

The more popular section to walk is a 1.5-mile section beginning across Aughwick Road from Parking Lot 3, climbing along Tuscarora Mountain to the junction with Geyer Trail. Once at the junction with Geyer Trail, hikers have several options to continue their hike. They can return to the day use area by retracing their steps or by following Geyer Trail to Cameron Trail then to Plessinger Trail. They can also take Tuscarora Trail another 2.4 miles south to the top of Big Mountain to see a spectacular overlook of the Path Valley and Franklin County. From the Big Mountain Overlook, hikers will have

a 3.9-mile return hike back to the park. The Cowans Gap section of the trail is renowned for its unusual rock outcroppings and rock fields.

Tell us about your hike at: www.ExplorePATrails.com.

CAUTION: Hikers should be in good physical condition, wear sturdy boots, and use caution due to slippery/wet conditions and steep trail sections.

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience while at the park:

- Always wear sturdy boots. Wearing sneakers, sandals, “water shoes,” or “street shoes” can lead to serious accidents in this park.
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike. The weather changes quickly in the park. Plan to be off the trails well before dark.

