

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

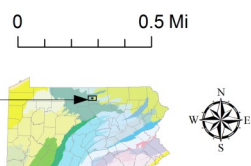
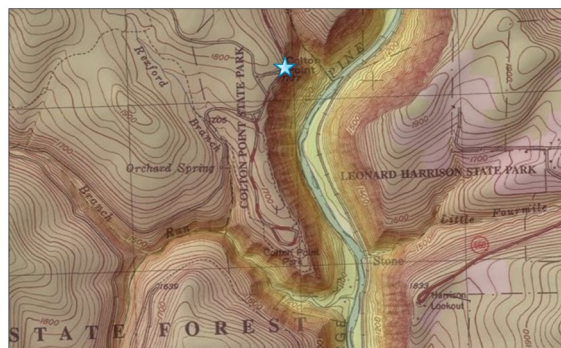
COLTON POINT, TIOGA COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Colton Point State Park, Tioga County, Shippen Twp.,
lat: 41.7093, lon: -77.4643; Tiadaghton 7.5-minute quadrangle



Geology

Colton Point, in Colton Point State Park, provides a spectacular view of [Pine Creek Gorge](#)—otherwise known as the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. The gorge is in the Deep Valleys section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province. The view from the overlook shows the section's characteristic very high relief and deep angular valleys. A similar view can be seen from [Harrison Lookout](#), a mile to the southeast on the opposite side of the canyon.

At this location, the depth of the valley is over 800 feet, and the distance from rim to rim is approximately 4,000 feet. Sandstones and shales of the Catskill Formation dominate the slopes; the Lock Haven Formation occurs at the bottom of the gorge.

Pine Creek originally flowed northeast from Ansonia. As ice moved into the area, glacial lakes developed from the blocked stream flow. This allowed for water to erode through what used to be a watershed divide and change the flow direction.



On the left is the view looking south-southeast over Pine Creek. On the right is the view to the northeast. Note the steep angle of the wooded slopes. Photographs by Peter Reynier, Pennsylvania Geological Survey intern.

Recommended Reading

McGlade, W. G., 1971, Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks—The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-005.0](#), 4 p.

[Colton Point State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

[Leonard Harrison State Park](#) web page of DCNR.