

HIKING: 4 miles within park boundary

Many hiking trails begin in Pine Grove Furnace State Park and continue into the surrounding Michaux State Forest.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL: 1.5 miles in park, white blazes, easiest hiking
See Appalachian National Scenic Trail section for more information.

BRICKYARD TRAIL: 0.3 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
Traveling near wetlands, an underground spring, and a historic water race, this short trail connects the Brickyard Day Use Area to the Organized Group Tenting Area.

BUCK RIDGE TRAIL: 6 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
This Michaux State Forest trail connects Kings Gap Environmental Education Center to Pine Grove Furnace State Park. The trailhead and a small parking area are north of the park office.

CREEK TRAIL: 0.5 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
Creek Trail begins at the amphitheater and winds past vernal ponds, wetlands, and a stand of white pine along Mountain Creek near the campground.

HIKER BIKER TRAIL: 3 miles, no blazes, easiest hiking
Stretching from the Furnace Stack Day Use Area to the back side of Laurel Lake, the Hiker Biker Trail is fairly level with a paved or crushed limestone trail surface. Hikers are advised to use caution because the entire trail is shared with bicyclists, and a section is open to motor vehicles.

KOPPENHAVER TRAIL: 1-mile loop, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
Access this scenic loop trail at the far end of Fuller Field or the parking area off Old Railroad Bed Road. The footpath crosses Toms Run, follows Mountain Creek, and passes through stands of mature pines and hemlocks.

MOUNTAIN CREEK TRAIL: 1.4 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
This trail is a link between the Hiker Biker Trail to Fuller Lake and Icehouse Road to Laurel Lake. The trail affords the hiker an alternate path to Laurel Lake Day Use Area other than the paved roadway. The trail meanders through forests and wetlands as it follows Mountain Creek downstream to Laurel Lake. Deer, herons, waterfowl, and beavers can be seen along this trail.

POLE STEEPLE TRAIL: 0.75 mile, blue blazes, most difficult hiking
This steep Michaux State Forest trail can be accessed from the Appalachian Trail, Old Railroad Bed Road, or the Pole Steeple parking lot in the park. The trail begins along Old Railroad Bed Road by Laurel Lake and proceeds up Piney Mountain to the rocky overlook. The park can be viewed from the Pole Steeple Overlook, which is a quartzite rock outcropping.

The steep grade and sheer drop may stress some individuals. Parents are advised to closely supervise children, especially when they are on the rocks and ledges. Arrive early on weekends and nice days as parking is limited.

For a 4-mile loop, combine Pole Steeple, Appalachian, and Mountain Creek trails with a short section of Old Railroad Bed Road.

SUNSET ROCKS TRAIL: 2 miles, blue blazes, most difficult hiking
This Michaux State Forest trail can be accessed from Old Shippensburg Road or the Appalachian Trail northwest of the park. The forested trail passes Sunset Rocks Overlook, a rocky outcropping with a view of surrounding Michaux State Forest.

SWAMP TRAIL: 0.25 mile, yellow blazes, easiest hiking
This short, loop trail circles a small, forested swamp filled with various plants and animals. The trail begins and ends on the Hiker Biker Trail.

FOR A SAFE HIKE:

- Check the weather before you hike. It is not safe to hike during thunderstorms or when heavy snow is expected.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Wear sturdy shoes to protect your feet.
- Carry the proper safety equipment, like a first aid kit and a poncho.
- Carry drinking water. DO NOT drink from streams, springs, or lakes without properly treating the water first!
- Stay on the trail for your safety and to protect fragile habitats.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Do not try to get close to wild animals.
- A cell phone can be useful for calling for help, but many sections of the park do not have cell phone coverage.

APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



Running through the heart of the park is one of the most famous footpaths in the world, the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). The approximately 2,190-mile-long trail traverses the Appalachian Mountains through 14 states, stretching as a continuous footpath from Springer Mountain in northern Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in central Maine.

HIKING THE A.T.
About 2 to 3 million people walk a portion of the A.T. each year. Pine Grove Furnace State Park is a popular access point for short-term backpacking and day hikes. The trail is marked with white blazes, which can be seen near the Pine Grove General Store, Appalachian Trail Museum, Fuller Day Use Area, and on the Hiker Biker Trail. Boiling Springs to the north and Caledonia to the south are each about a 20-mile hike from Pine Grove Furnace.

Overnight parking is available for backpackers in a special section of the Furnace Stack parking lot. Hikers should register their car and supply contact information and an itinerary at the park office.

Information, maps, guides, shuttles, and more are available at: www.appalachiantrail.org

HALFWAY POINT

Annually, about 4,000 people attempt to hike the entire A.T. These long-distance hikers are called thru-hikers and most pass through the park from late spring through the summer months. About one out of four thru-hikers will complete the whole trail. Reaching the park is a symbolic halfway milestone as the true halfway point lies several miles south of the park in Michaux State Forest.



To commemorate the completion of half of the journey, it is a thru-hiker tradition to attempt the "half-gallon challenge," eating one half-gallon of ice cream in one sitting. On a summer day, it is common to see hikers working on the challenge at the Pine Grove General Store.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL MUSEUM
Near the midpoint of the A.T., the Appalachian Trail Museum is between the Pine Grove General Store and Furnace Stack parking lot. Museum exhibits and programs pay tribute to the hikers and pioneer trail-builders for their commitment to conservation. The Children's Discovery Area provides interactive, hands-on learning experiences. The museum welcomes newcomers to the A.T. as well as veteran hikers and frequently offers an opportunity to meet current thru-hikers.

The museum is open seasonally. Check the website for hours of operation. Admission is free of charge, although donations are welcome. Parking for the museum is adjacent to the Furnace Stack Pavilion. 717-486-8126. www.atmuseum.org

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Pine Grove Furnace State Park
1100 Pine Grove Road
Gardners, PA 17324-9078
717-486-7174
PineGroveSP@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer
www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks
[@PineGroveFurnaceSP](https://www.facebook.com/PineGroveFurnaceSP)

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.

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.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from:
Cumberland Valley Visitor Bureau. www.visitcumberlandvalley.com
Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. <http://destinationgettysburg.com>
The park is surrounded by the 85,000-acre Michaux State Forest, which offers hiking, hunting, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and ATving. Just south of the park is a trailhead that provides parking for vehicles and trailers, and access to many miles of snowmobile and ATV trails on state forest lands. 717-352-2211
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center includes a historic mansion, beautiful garden, many miles of forested trails, overnight opportunities, and educational programming. A variety of programs from pre-school environmental awareness programs to environmental problem solving programs are offered. 717-486-5031
Nearby Caledonia State Park has opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, and picnicking. 717-352-2161

Make online reservations at
www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.
Electric Vehicle Charging Station
A two-plug, electric-vehicle charging station is available for public use in the small parking lot off Bendersville Road adjacent to the creek. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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

NEAREST HOSPITAL
UPMC Carlisle
361 Alexander Spring Road
Carlisle, PA 17015
717-249-1212

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



Five-lined skink

