

Logging History in the Pine Creek Valley



Switch-back Railroad Model

The Shay locomotive engine model railroad depicts the switch-back railroads that were built on the mountains above the towns of Cammal, Slate Run, and Tiadaghton. The trains brought logs down to the saw mills located in the towns.

The logs were sawn into boards and rafted down Pine Creek to the Susquehanna River and on to cities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware. After 1883 the lumber was loaded onto the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and Buffalo railroad, a standard gauge railroad that ran from Williamsport to New York City on what is now the Pine Creek Rail Trail. The Shay locomotive engine contributed to the massive deforestation of mountains from the end of the 1800s through the 1920s.

Prior to railroad development, log slides, splash dams, log rafts, and crib systems for sorting and storing logs in the river were the norm.

Mountain Log Slide

The replica of a log slide depicts how harvested trees were moved off the steep mountain sides early in the Nineteenth Century.

The logs were dragged down the slides by horses to temporary splash dams on the small creeks feeding Pine Creek.

In the spring of the year, when the water was high, the dams would be opened or 'splashed' and the logs were floated down Pine Creek to the Susquehanna River and on to the lumber mills of Williamsport.



Foresters

The Tiadaghton foresters provide leadership on issues related to the management of the trees, native plants, forest ecology. They prevent and suppress wildfires and manage destructive insects and invasive plant species. Foresters manage timber harvests complying with Forest Stewardship Council™ standards, protect the quality of the state's water resources, and manage natural gas activity within the state forest system.

Environment



The richness of the Pine Creek Valley environment is shown in the interactive Flora and Fauna display, the 180 gallon fish tank stocked with native brook trout, and eight birds of prey taxidermy specimens.



For more information
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Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center



Located just north of
Waterville, PA on Route 44 in
the historic Pine Creek Valley

Educational Resources

The Tiadaghton State Forest offers environmental education and interpretation programs seasonally from March – November. Through guided walks and hikes, hands-on programs, lectures, presentations, and more, visitors are introduced to the vast natural resources the District has to offer, and helps people gain an appreciation, understanding, and sense of stewardship toward the environmental, historical, and cultural resources around them.



Curriculum-based programming is available to schools, both on location in the District, as well as in the classroom. Programs are also offered to youth groups, boy and girl scout troops, and other small groups by request. All group programs must be scheduled in advance by calling the Resource Management Center.

For more information on educational opportunities in the District, contact the Resource Management Center. For a listing of current programs and events, visit the DCNR Calendar of Events website at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>, and check out the Tiadaghton State Forest on Facebook.

The Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center is a LEED certified building. Integrating locally obtained and recycled materials into the construction process, and passive solar and geothermal heating systems, this state of the art building makes a reduced environmental impact compared to other buildings of its size.

The RMC has several interpretive displays to educate the public about Pennsylvania's native flora and fauna and the history of forest management from the 1800s through today. Many of the displays are interactive and provide learning opportunities for people of all ages.

Centrally located to the Pennsylvania Wilds, the public can acquire camping, fuel wood, or boat launch permits. Recreational maps, as well as other information, are available at the Resource Management Center. There are several primitive campsites, hiking trails, an ATV trail, and miles of roads in our forest. With over 146,000 acres of land there are endless recreation and educational opportunities.



A rainbow viewed from the terrace of our natural roof.



This “tree cookie” is from an eastern hemlock, estimated to be 325 years old

Native Plants and Tree Walks



The Native Treasure Niche is a native plant garden that contains plants that lived in Pennsylvania before European colonization. They are uniquely suited to the climate requiring less maintenance to thrive. A pamphlet is available that describes native gardening and highlights numerous plants that can be found in bloom throughout the year. The Niche is enclosed by a deer exclosure fence and is open to the public.

The Tree ID Trail is about one mile long and begins just to the left of the Native Treasure Niche. Follow along to learn about and try to identify some of the marked trees on the trail. Pamphlets and “Common Trees of Pennsylvania” booklets are available inside the Resource Management Center.

Forestry Conservation

Each forest has a history. Not just a biological history, but a history of those who had the vision to be good stewards and conserve the forests for generations to come. Whether for marketable timber, wildlife habitat, recreation, or energy resources, many people through the centuries have been important to the conservation and responsible management of our forest resources.

The Forest Heroes videos tell the stories of six conservation leaders.

Through education, **you too** can be a part of this rich heritage of conservationists for our Pennsylvania forests!

