

## Rail Trail Guidelines

**Hours of Use**  
The trail is open to the public from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Overnight parking in designated areas is limited to those persons with a valid camping permit.

General trail use is a daytime activity. Using the trail and parking areas after dark for legitimate activities, such as night fishing, night hikes, or night string in winter is allowed. However, unauthorized trail use after dark is not allowed, a rule which is aggressively enforced.



### Helmetts

State law requires all bike riders and passengers under the age of 12 to wear a helmet.

### Emergencies

Contact Licensing or Troop County Communications Center by dialing 911.

### Private Lands

Trail users must respect the rights and privacy of adjoining private property owners. Please do not leave the trail or right-of-way through private property, except at clearly designated and marked exit and entry points.

### Road Crossings

Trail users must come to a complete stop and look both ways at all public road crossings. The trail is gated and signed at all such crossings. Private crossings may be gated, and are signed with stop or yield signs as appropriate.

### Horses and Dogs

Horse-drawn and dog-drawn vehicles are permitted on the service road used to improve the trail from Ansonia south to Tiadaghton. They are only permitted to utilize the improved trail designed for horses and dogs when crossing bridges. Unleashed dogs are not permitted on the trail right-of-way, in the parking areas, or campgrounds. Leashes must not exceed six feet in length.

### Bridges

Fishing, jumping or driving from, or climbing onto trail bridges is not permitted.

### Alcohol



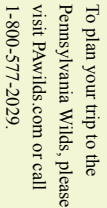
Consumption of alcoholic beverages on the trail right-of-way is prohibited. Intoxication while operating a bicycle is a crime, as is public drunkenness in parking areas and camping areas along the trail right-of-way, as well as on the trail right-of-way itself. These regulations will be vigorously enforced.

### Firearms

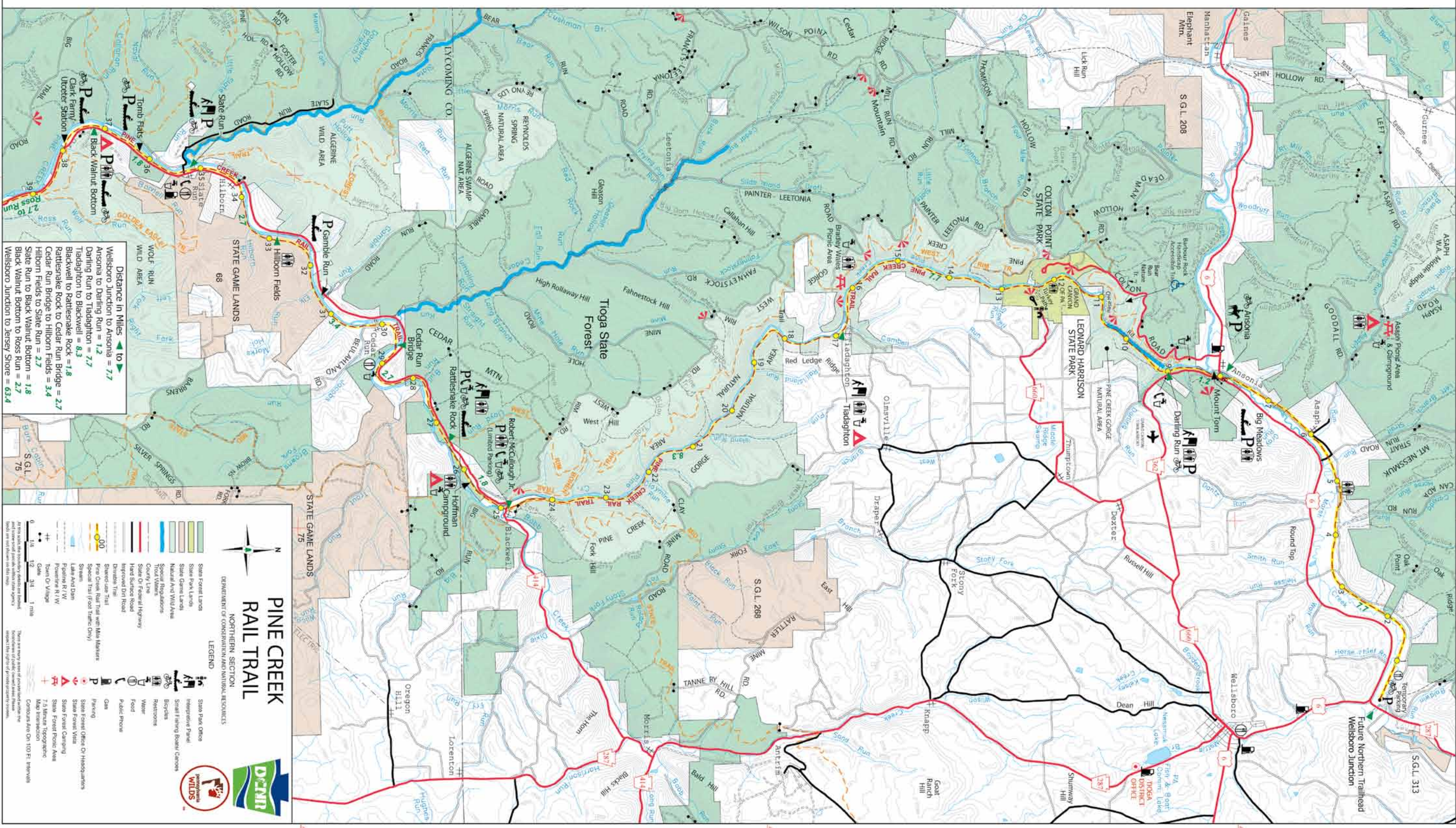
Firearms shall not be loaded while on the trail right-of-way, parking lots, or campgrounds, except between Blackwell and Wellsboro Junction where use of the trail for hunting is at the sole discretion of the district forester. It is recommended that trail users wear personal safety vests (bright orange) during the fall hunting season for personal safety.

### Special/Commercial

Special organized group or commercial use activity on the trail or trail right-of-way requires a Special Activity Agreement, Commercial Activity Agreement or Letter of Authorization with the Department.



To plan your trip to the Pennsylvania Wilds, please contact the Pennsylvania Wildlife Bureau at 1-800-557-2929.



## Pine Creek Valley— a Natural Treasure

One of the most spectacular natural areas in Pennsylvania, Pine Creek Gorge is often referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania." and was recognized as a National Natural Landmark in 1968. The Pine Creek Gorge begins near Ansonia, along US 6, and continues south for about 47 miles. At its deepest point, Pine Creek Gorge is 1450 feet deep and nearly one mile wide.

Why would a "Grand Canyon" be located in north-central Pennsylvania? It's all about geology and, more specifically, glaciers. Imagine a vast sheet of ice, hundreds of feet thick, inching over this landscape like a giant bulldozer. Several such glaciers sculpted this landscape. As the last glacier receded north more than 10,000 years ago, its meltwaters helped carve Pine Creek's deep gorge. Today, the creek's spring-fed waters continue to gradually deepen the canyon.

As you hike or bike along the Pine Creek Rail Trail, you'll see dramatic rock outcrops and numerous waterfalls, mountain streams, and deep forests of conifers and hardwoods. Though most of the old-growth pines and hemlocks were felled by the early 1900s, scattered ancient trees still dot the landscape, along with native red pine and American yew. This varied landscape is home to a tremendous diversity of plant and wildlife species. Take time in your travels to watch for bald eagles, ospreys, coyote, deer, wild turkeys, herons, hawks or even one of the river otters recently reintroduced in the area.



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### Care for the Land

State forests belong to the people of Pennsylvania. Take the time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don't damage the trees and other plants.

### For Your Safety

Please respect the state forest rules and regulations that have been established to protect you and the natural resources. In the event of an emergency, call 911 for police, fire, ambulance or search and rescue.

### iConservePA

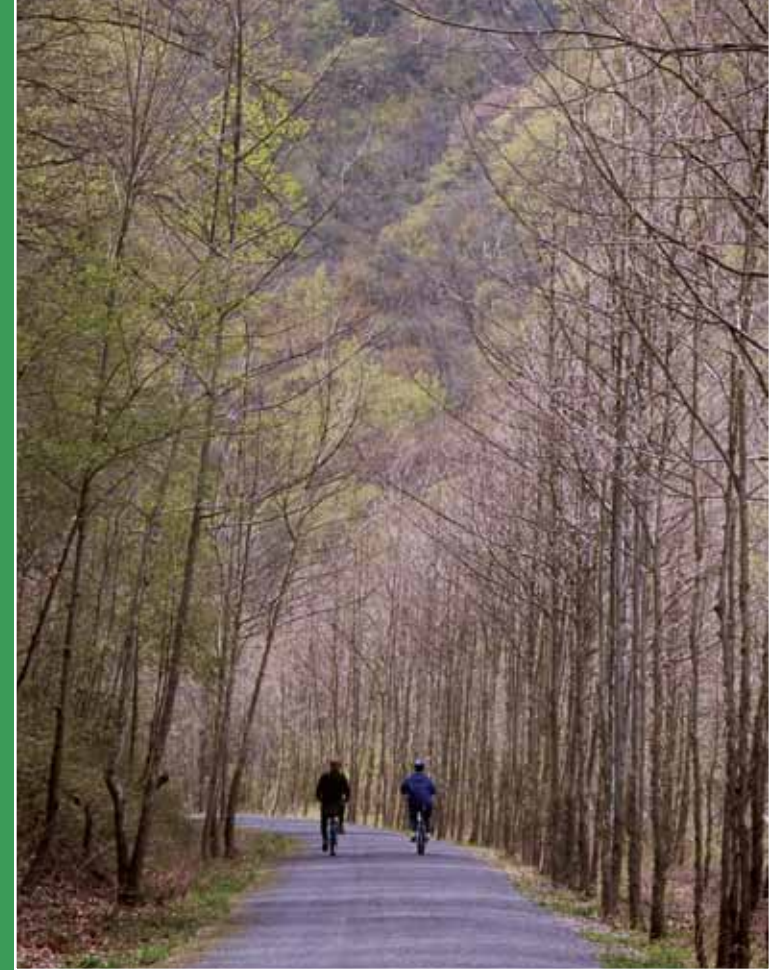
To learn more about the state's natural resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto [www.iConservePA.org](http://www.iConservePA.org).

### Pennsylvania Wilds



Within the heart of northcentral Pennsylvania lies a 12-county region with a deep connection to its past, with vast forests, small towns, welcoming people and authentic, natural experiences. That is what makes the Pennsylvania Wilds so special. We would like to share the secret of this area with folks so they can connect with nature, continue to protect what is revered by the citizens of this region and pursue and sustainably enjoy whatever recreation appeals to you. Come on in and discover the recreational opportunities within the Pennsylvania Wilds! Welcome!

**Harrisburg Headquarters**  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552



SAP315030  
October 2012

A Public Use Map For  
**Pine Creek Rail Trail**



## Welcome to the Pine Creek Rail Trail,

a 62-mile, gently graded, gravelled path that winds through the spectacular Pine Creek Gorge. Here you can hike, bike, cross-country ski or snowshoe through some of Pennsylvania's most dramatic scenery. Raft or canoe the Class II and III waters of Pine Creek. Horseback ride on riding trails in designated sections of the route. This guide provides extensive information to help you find an adventure to meet your needs.

When you explore the Pine Creek Rail Trail, you're following a route that humans have traveled for hundreds of years. From 1883 to 1988, rail lines carried timber, coal, and passengers through this canyon. Now the trail leads the adventurous through miles of outstanding natural beauty, from Wellsboro Junction to Jersey Shore.

## What to Do While You're Here

### State Forests

The 146,262-acre Tiaoghton State Forest is located on the Allegheny Plateau, a rugged region deeply carved by stream valleys. Tiaoghton was the name the Iroquois gave to Pine Creek, the largest tributary of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Tiaoghton State Forest centers on the Pine Creek Valley. Here, mixed oak forests dominate the landscape, although northern hardwood forests of beech, birch, maple, ash and black cherry cover the northern portion of the state forest, as well as some of its deep valleys.

The 165,052-acre Tioga State Forest contains valuable forest resources that provide a continuous supply of forest products for the local economy, as well as outstanding recreational opportunities, water for surrounding communities, and habitat for plant and animal species.

Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area, also known as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, is 12,163 acres and comprises both sides of Pine Creek from just south of Ansonia to Blackwell, a distance of 18 miles.

Tiaoghton Forest District  
10 Lower Pine Bottom Rd.  
Waterville, PA 17776  
(570) 753-5409  
fd12@pa.gov

Tioga Forest District  
One Nessumuk Lane  
Wellsboro, PA 16901  
(570) 724-2868  
fd16@pa.gov

### Biking & Horseback Riding

The Pine Creek Rail Trail's wide, lightly sloped, gravelled surface offers easy biking that is well suited for families. Individuals looking for a trail off the beaten path can utilize any of the "shared-use trails" that traverse the Tioga and Tiaoghton state forests, as designated within the map legend. Please note that trails designated within the map legend as "special" are only open to foot travel.

Horseback riding and horse-drawn vehicles are permitted on the service road adjacent to the improved trail, from Ansonia south to Tiaoghton. Please refer to the Rail Trail Guidelines in this publication for further information about horseback riding.

### Hiking

In addition to the Pine Creek Rail Trail, many hiking trails traverse the Pine Creek Valley's state forests. In Tioga State Forest, the West Rim Trail offers 30 miles of hiking along the western rim of Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon. Many vistas have been cleared along the trail to provide views of the Pine Creek Valley. The West Rim Trail connects with the Mid State Trail at Blackwell. Known as "the widest trail in Pennsylvania," the Mid

State Trail covers a total of 300 miles and crosses through both Tioga and Tiaoghton state forests. In Tiaoghton State Forest, the 42-mile Black Forest Trail, named for the dense, dark virgin coniferous forests that originally covered the region, offers a challenging trek for would-be adventurers.

### Canoeing

Canoeing facilities along Pine Creek have been developed by the Bureau of Forestry. Access areas and campsites can be found on the map included in this brochure. Water conditions on Pine Creek are indicated by the USGS gauging station at Cedar Run. The minimum, no-scraping readings for Pine Creek are: Ansonia to Cammal, 3.0 feet; Cammal to Waterville, 1.8 feet; Waterville to Rt. 220, 2.5 feet.

The current gauge reading is available online at <http://water.usgs.gov>. At high water levels, large waves capable of swamping boats may develop at a number of locations. The section of Pine Creek from Ansonia to Rattlesnake Rock is classified as Class III water with frequent rapids and swift-flowing water. Pine Creek below Rattlesnake Rock is generally considered a Class II river, with fairly frequent rapids of medium difficulty, having unobstructed passages and low ledges.

### Camping

All camping along Pine Creek requires a camping permit! All camping must take place at least 100 feet from waterways. Camping on the right-of-way or in trail parking areas is not permitted. Groups of 10 or more people must obtain a Letter of Authorization from the district forester in addition to a camping permit.

Tiaoghton State Forest: Primitive camping near the rail trail is permitted at Black Walnut Bottom Camping Area (2 miles south of Slate Run). Black Walnut Bottom offers picnic tables, fire rings and restrooms. Campsites with permits may also camp at a limited number of sites at Naval Run, Callahan Run and at Bonnell Flat Camping Area. Permits are available at the district office, and can be issued in person, via US mail, or by fax.

Tioga State Forest: Primitive camping near the rail trail is permitted along Pine Creek at designated locations. Tiaoghton and Hoffman campgrounds offer picnic tables, fire rings, potable water and restrooms. Permits are available at the district office, and can be issued in person, via US mail, or by fax.

### Rail Trail Accessibility

The Pine Creek Rail Trail's gently graded, gravelled surface provides accessibility for individuals with mobility restrictions.