A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Hickory Run

Hickory Run State Park



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pennsylvania State Parks Mission

The primary mission of Pennsylvania State Parks is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

PAStateParks

2023



TOP 10 ACTIVITIES



Stametz Dam

1. Explore Boulder Field, a National Natural Landmark.
2. Hike Hawk Falls Trail and photograph the beautiful Hawk Falls.
3. Enjoy the solitude of Stametz Dam along Shades of Death Trail.
4. Play 19 holes of disc golf followed by a picnic in Sand Spring Day Use Area.
5. View the Lehigh Gorge along Fireline Trail.
6. Pull a wild brook trout from Hickory Run or Mud Run.
7. Have an ice cream after swimming in Sand Spring Lake.
8. Cross-country ski on Sand Spring Trail.
9. Spend a weekend with the family in a rustic camping cottage.
10. Visit a neighboring park – Lehigh Gorge State Park.



HICKORY RUN STATE PARK

The 15,990-acre Hickory Run State Park lies in the western foothills of the Pocono Mountains in Carbon County. This large park has over 40 miles of hiking trails, three state park natural areas, and miles of trout streams. Boulder Field, a striking 16-acre landscape of boulders, is a National Natural Landmark.

The Hickory Run State Park Visitor Center and Office serves as the main point of contact for anyone exploring Hickory Run and Lehigh Gorge state parks. Visitors can interact with park staff, check-in to the Hickory Run State Park campground, explore the interactive exhibits, and attend educational programs.

Reservations

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.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.024698 Long. - 75.687251

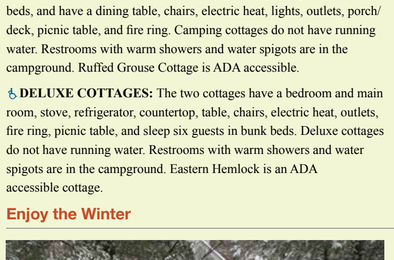
From I-80, take exit 274 at the Hickory Run State Park Exit, and drive east on PA 534 for approximately six miles.

From the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take exit 95 and drive west on PA 940 for 2.5 miles, then turn east on PA 534 for approximately seven miles.

The park is within a two- or three-hour drive from Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and New York City. It is one hour from Allentown, Scranton, and Wilkes-Barre.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Spend the Day



PICNICKING: A large day use area, located near Sand Spring Lake, offers swimming, disc golfing, hiking, and orienteering opportunities. The area also provides picnic tables, restrooms, swings, drinking water, and trash and recycling containers. A picnic pavilion may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee. If unreserved, it is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

SWIMMING: A sand beach at Sand Spring Lake is open from late May to mid-September, 8:00 AM to sunset. Please read and follow posted rules for swimming. Swim at your own risk. A snack bar has sandwiches, drinks, ice cream, and snacks.

DISC GOLFING: A 19-hole disc golf course is located in the Sand Spring Day Use Area. The one-mile course is flat and moderately wooded. Each hole has crushed stone tees and a basket. Please be cautious of other park users when playing.

FISHING: Anglers find excellent sport in the many streams and lakes within the park boundaries. Some streams are stocked with brook and brown trout. An ADA fishing pier is available at the CCC dam in the campground. Mud Run is a delayed harvest, artificial lure only stream. The lower 2.9 miles of Hickory Run, from below the Saylorsville Dam to the Lehigh River, is a catch-and-release-only fishing area.

Fishing is prohibited in swimming areas. Due to space constraints, fishing is discouraged in Sand Spring Lake.

The Lehigh River, which flows along the western boundary of the park, has warmwater game fish, trouts, and panfishes.

Francis E. Walter Dam, about 20 minutes north of the park, provides boating and angling for species of trout and warmwater game fish.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HIKING: see reverse side.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: Over 13,000 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, turkey, black bear, and gray squirrel. Additional hunting opportunities are provided in adjoining State Game Lands 40, 129, and 141.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner's vehicle or enclosed trailer. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

GEOCACHING: In this high-tech treasure hunt, hikers equipped with clues and GPS coordinates seek hidden containers known as geocaches. In the park, many geocaches await discovery. Brochures are available at the park office to learn more about the educational locations. Visit www.geocaching.com for the coordinates to begin. All new geocaches in the park must be approved prior to placement; contact the park office before developing a new geocache within the park.

ORIENTEERING: Two permanent orienteering courses in the park are maintained by the Delaware Valley Orienteering Association (DVOA). The beginner course in the Sand Spring Day Use Area (controls 1-7) is 1.75 miles long, the intermediate course (controls 1-13) is 3 miles long, and the advanced course (controls 14-20), which begins near the Saylorsville Dam, is 2.75 miles long. Detailed maps are available at the visitor center and office.



Stay the Night

CAMPING: modern shower houses, some electric sites and full-hookups
The large tent and trailer camping area has more than 300 modern campsites (electric, non-electric, full-hookup, pet-friendly, and walk-to) with a sanitary dump station, playgrounds, and modern restrooms with warm showers. A camp store sells general camping supplies.

The campground is open from mid-April to mid-December. Shower facilities and the dump station are not available after late October. Pets are permitted on designated sites. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

CAMPING COTTAGES: Three cottages sleep five guests in bunk beds, and have a dining table, chairs, electric heat, lights, outlets, porch/deck, picnic table, and fire ring. Camping cottages do not have running water. Restrooms with warm showers and water spigots are in the campground. Ruffed Grouse Cottage is ADA accessible.

DELUXE COTTAGES: The two cottages have a bedroom and main room, stove, refrigerator, countertop, table, chairs, electric heat, outlets, fire ring, picnic table, and sleep six guests in bunk beds. Deluxe cottages do not have running water. Restrooms with warm showers and water spigots are in the campground. Eastern Hemlock is an ADA accessible cottage.

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Non-profit adult and youth groups can rent one or more of the 13 group sites. Located across PA 534 from the campground, this area is open year round and has picnic tables, fire rings, restrooms, and water spigots.

ORGANIZED GROUP CABIN CAMPS: Organized group cabin camps are open only to non-profit, organized groups. Camp Daddy Allen holds 124 people and Camp Shehaqua holds 149 people. The camps are open from the second Friday in April through the third Sunday in October. Located in a wooded setting with adjacent play fields, the camps share a swimming pool that is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Groups must supply their own certified lifeguards.



Enjoy the Winter



ICE SKATING: When conditions permit, Sand Spring Lake is available for ice skating. **Ice thickness is not monitored.** For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single skater and 7" thick for a small group. Always carry safety equipment.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: The 14 miles of designated cross-country ski trails are marked with blue blazes.

SNOWMOBILING: The 21 miles of designated snowmobile trails are marked with orange blazes.

HISTORY



The history of the land that would become Hickory Run State Park is one of devastation and regrowth. During the last ice age, advancing ice sheets halted in this area bringing an arctic-like climate that covered half of the park in ice. The glacier eradicated most life present at the time and left as its legacy a region of poor, rocky soil that is almost impossible to farm.

The first humans to the area found dark forests of evergreens and seemingly bottomless swamps and bogs. Hickory Run became territory claimed by the Lenni Lenape and Susquehannock, but no known Indigenous settlements occurred in the area. The first colonists named the area "Shades of Death" for the dark forests, numerous swamps, and rocky, unfarmable soil.

After the American Revolution, the government encouraged colonial settlement by giving away land for free, in warrants of about 400 acres. Cuthbert, Ord, Cist, and Decatur were some of the original land grantees; however, most sold their warrants instead of settling the area. Robert Morris purchased land in 1794. Morris is known as the "financier of the American Revolution" and signed all three important early American documents.

In 1838, the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal was completed on the Lehigh River and ushered in the boom time for the region. Enterprising men like Isaac and Stephen Gould and David Saylor erected mills on the streams. By 1839, there were six mills on Hickory Run and two mills on Mud Run, then called Muddy Run. A town arose on the banks of Hickory Run and boasted one of the earliest post offices in the county.

A stagecoach road between Allentown and Wilkes-Barre was built through the area, and the town of Saylorsville arose, just upstream of Hickory Run. The hotel in town could sleep 150 people. The road has become Stage Trail, and foundations are all that remain of the town.

Loggers clear-cut the forests but did no replanting, which contributed to flooding. In 1849, several dams broke on Hickory Run, flooding the towns of Saylorsville and Hickory Run. At least seven people died, most of whom were buried in the small cemetery near the chapel. The blacksmith, Jacob West, lost four of his children and his wife; surviving them for 40 years until being laid to rest alongside them.

Floods slowed the removal of the trees, however, forest fires became a problem on the cleared land. In 1875, the Great Fire began near Mud Run and smoldered for several days before sweeping north to Monroe County. The fire devastated cut and standing timber, tore through many mills, and destroyed numerous houses. The local population began to dwindle.

The Manor House and the chapel are the only structures that remain from the old town of Hickory Run. Other traces of the town include a cemetery, foundations, and roads.

Little is known of the time between the 1890s and 1918. Forest fires raged and floods carried away soil. Not since the time of the glacier had the land been so devastated.

In 1918, Allentown millionaire General Harry C. Trexler began buying land in the area. Trexler began his career as a clerk, but soon branched into logging and other industries, becoming a wealthy businessman and philanthropist. Trexler purchased the land at Hickory Run for one purpose:

"I would like to see Hickory Run developed into a state park where families can come and enjoy wholesome recreation." (Proceedings of the Lehigh County Historical Society: The General and His Captain, 1984)

Trexler opened his land to public hunting and fishing. One thousand acres were fenced off to propagate game animals and a fish hatchery was established. Wardens patrolled the propagation area, and part of the path they walked has become Gamewire Trail. Trexler died before his plans could be completed.

In 1935, the National Park Service purchased Hickory Run to create a National Recreation Demonstration Area. These areas were placed "in close proximity to the larger industrial centers for use by people of the lower income group and underprivileged children, for family camps, children-group camps, and organization camps." In 1936, Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers arrived to begin building roads, trails, fire roads, water lines, and the group camps.

In 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established Camp NP-6. The camp was adjacent to the current campground by the CCC Dam. A playground and open field now occupy the site where 200 young men had their camp. The CCC boys continued the work of the WPA, including building trails.

In 1945, the Hickory Run National Recreation Demonstration Area was transferred to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and became Hickory Run State Park.

WHY HICKORY RUN?
Run is a colloquial name for a stream. Most of the local streams are called runs, but why Hickory Run when there are so few hickories in the area?

One theory suggests when colonists arrived in the area they found many hickory trees. The logging era could have removed the trees, but there are very few hickory trees in the park today. If there once were many trees, there should have been a good seed base to regrow the hickories. This theory cannot be proven unless logging records can be discovered.

The other theory for the name is based on a story from the early inhabitants of the town of Hickory Run. They say that the first explorers up the stream valley found a huge hickory tree surrounded by pine trees. This unique tree formation inspired the name. Recent explorations of the lower reaches of Hickory Run have failed to discover the huge hickory tree or the pine grove, but the story and name live on.

LEARN, EXPERIENCE, CONNECT

Hickory Run State Park offers a wide variety of programs year round. Diverse habitats and forest types, extensive wild areas, and unique geologic formations make Hickory Run an excellent outdoor classroom. Gain a better understanding of the park's natural, cultural, and historical resources through guided outdoor recreation, hands-on activities, walks, special events, and other programs.

The 2,400-square-foot exhibit hall, located in the visitor center and office, welcomes, inspires, and entices visitors to explore Hickory Run and Lehigh Gorge state parks. The exhibits feature the natural and cultural history of the area and provide information on how best to safely enjoy your visit any time of year. Displays provide a sense of scale, space, and time by featuring the geology, animals, plants, and human history in the park.

Curriculum-based environmental education programs are available to schools and organized groups. Call the park office to schedule a group program. A variety of professional development workshops are also offered for teachers.

Contact the park office or explore the online calendar of events, https://events.dcnr.pa.gov, for more information on programs and other learning experiences.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. 570-421-5791. www.poconomountains.com

Lehigh Gorge State Park contains 6,107 acres of land and about 30 miles of the Lehigh River. Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and whitewater boating. Over 20 miles of rail trail, part of the larger D&L Trail, follow the river and provide opportunities for hiking and biking as well as hunting and fishing access. Specific boating regulations apply. Inexperienced boaters should not attempt the Lehigh River without qualified guides. Outfitted trips are available from concessionaires who provide transportation to and from the river, rafts, guides, and all safety equipment. For more information, including a Lehigh Gorge State Park map, contact the Hickory Run State Park office.

Lehigh Gorge State Park is part of the **Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.** The corridor stretches more than 165 miles from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol and follows the historic routes of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad, the Lehigh Canal, and the Delaware Canal. The corridor showcases the extraordinary natural, cultural, and recreational resources and works to conserve the heritage of the area. Visitor centers are available throughout the region to direct visitors to many opportunities that tell the stories that make the region so nationally significant. https://delawareandlehigh.org

Lehigh Gorge and Hickory Run state parks are featured in a unique auto tour entitled **Exploring Audubon's Lehigh**. The tour focuses on famed naturalist John James Audubon's 1829 visit to the Rockport area of the Lehigh River Valley and explores the valley's natural and historical landscapes. Signs mark the 53-mile route and identify tour stops. The tour begins in Jim Thorpe at the Old Mauch Chunk Landing and Jim Thorpe Visitor Center or in White Haven at the Lehigh Canal Depot. The tour is located within the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. https://store.delawareandlehigh.org

NATURAL HISTORY

About 20,000 years ago, a giant sheet of ice approximately one mile thick straddled Hickory Run. The western part of the park was beneath the glacier. The land to the east is higher, and although it was not covered by the glacier, it was greatly affected by the cold climate. Boulder Field was created in the unglaciated area.

The western side of the park is covered by the end moraine of the glacier. Like a giant bulldozer, the glacier scraped the land. Rocks, sand, and other debris were pushed along and frozen into the glacier. When the glacier melted and retreated, this debris was dropped, making a landscape of bogs and glacial till called a moraine.

The steep valleys of the western side of the park were carved by the billions of gallons of water that streamed away from the melting glacier. To see the change in the landscape, observe the terrain and trees as you drive Boulder Field Road. The glacial boundary is at Hickory Run Lake on the way to Boulder Field.

The eastern side of the park did not escape the melting glacial water. Before the glacier, Hawk Run and Mud Run probably gently flowed together; however, the glacial melt affected each stream differently. Hawk Run drained the highlands of the unglaciated side of the park, while Mud Run drained glaciated land from east of the park. The floodwaters from the melting glacier eroded Mud Run quicker than Hawk Run, creating the spectacular waterfall, Hawk Falls.

The habitats of the glaciated side of the park are characterized by sphagnum moss bogs, evergreen trees, and thin, moist soil. Blackburnian warblers, red-breasted nuthatches, and northern waterthrushes are common to this habitat. In the spring, spotted and Jefferson salamanders, and wood frogs migrate to the bogs to breed.

The habitats of the unglaciated side of the park are characterized by beech and chestnut oak trees on predominantly flat land. American redstarts, red-eyed vireos, and scarlet tanagers are common to this habitat.

At the campground, which straddles the two areas, you may be able to hear and see six species of thrush – American robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, Swainson's thrush, veery, and eastern bluebird.

Serviceberry trees often flower by early May. In mid-June, the plentiful mountain laurel blooms, followed in late June to early July by the rhododendron. In mid-July, the highbush blueberries bear fruit, providing a feast for bears, birds, and other animals.





Hickory Run Lake

Natural Areas

Hickory Run has three state park natural areas, one of which is also a National Natural Landmark. A state park natural area is an area within a state park of unique scenic, geologic, or ecological value that will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention. These areas are set aside to provide locations for scientific observation of natural systems, to protect examples of typical and unique plant and animal communities, and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty.

Boulder Field: This rocky landscape is a National Natural Landmark, as well as a State Park Natural Area. Boulder Field appears striking because of its flatness and the absence of vegetation over the large area of 400 feet by 1,800 feet. Some of the boulders are 26 feet long.

Mud Swamp: This remote, emergent wetland is dominated by spruce trees and is a good example of a habitat more common in boreal areas.

Mud Run: This nearly pristine mountain stream is lined with rhododendron and eastern hemlock. The stream has a viable native brook trout population.

The Bear Truths

Many Pennsylvania state parks have healthy forests that provide perfect habitat for black bears. Although they appear cute and cuddly, black bears are wild animals.

A black bear can scramble up a tree like a raccoon and sprint up to 35 mph. Bears use their claws to tear apart rotting logs to find food as well as open trash cans and coolers. Pennsylvania has some of the largest black bears in the United States.

Black bears have an excellent sense of smell, which makes up for poor eyesight and fair hearing. Aromatic scents coming from your food and toiletries can attract a curious and hungry bear from a great distance.

Keep your campsite clean. Clean up after meals, and store all food and scented items inside a locked vehicle. This practice will prevent bears and other wildlife from visiting your campsite at night. Do not hang garbage from the hook on the lantern pole provided at each site. Feeding bears is illegal.

Black bears normally avoid people, but bears dependent on eating human food can become aggressive when people get between them and food. Never approach a bear and be especially wary of mother bears and cubs.

If you encounter a black bear, do not run. Back away slowly without making direct eye contact. If the bear does not leave the area, make a loud noise like blowing a whistle, honking a car horn, or banging a pot. Notify a park employee if you have difficulties with bears and call 911 if it is an emergency.

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

Hickory Run State Park
3 Family Camp Road
White Haven, PA 18661-9712
272-808-6192
HickoryRunSP@pa.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

@HickoryRunSP

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
Three electric vehicle charging plugs are available for public use outside the visitor center. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged.

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.

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

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.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hazleton
700 East Broad Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
570-501-4000

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.
- Firewood Advisory: Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and diseases that threaten park resources and the health of our forests. Campers should use local firewood. Do not take wood home and do not leave firewood. Burn it!
- Prevent forest fires by having a fire in proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled and attended at all times and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited. Pets are prohibited in swimming areas.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Please park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.



HIKING: 50 miles



Ⓐ Beach Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities in Sand Spring Area: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

Beach Trail provides an easy walk between Sand Spring Lake and the campground.

Ⓑ Bear Trail
1.1 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This wide, grassy trail branches off Fourth Run Trail (G) and ends at the northern park boundary. This secluded trail is great for viewing wildlife.

Ⓒ Blue Trail
1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Connecting Sand Spring and Pine Hill trails, Blue Trail winds through a forest dominated by chestnut oak, mountain laurel, and rhododendron. Mid to late June is the best time to see blooming mountain laurel, while blooming rhododendron can be seen early to mid-July.

Ⓓ Boulder Field Trail
3.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail begins at the parking lot off Route 534 and ends at Boulder Field, a National Natural Landmark. Along the trail you may see a variety of wildlife including bears, white-tail deer, turkeys, snowshoe hares, ruffed grouse, and owls.

Ⓔ Deer Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

Deer trail starts in the Sand Spring Day Use Area and ends at PA 534. In the spring and fall, vernal and autumnal pools along the trail may contain various frog, toad, and salamander species. A short section of the trail connects to Nature Trail (O) which leads to Sand Spring Day Use Area.

Ⓕ Fireline Trail
2.4 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Originally developed as an access road for firefighting equipment, this scenic trail has a picturesque overlook of the Lehigh River and Lehigh Gorge State Park.

Ⓖ Fourth Run Trail
4.8 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

The longest trail in the park passes through a wide variety of landscapes and habitats. It crosses Fourth Run multiple times, which provides excellent fishing opportunities for native brook trout. The trailhead is off Boulder Field Road.

Ⓗ Gamewire Trail
3.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

Accessed from the Sand Spring Day Use Area, this trail follows the boundary fence line that used to surround the game preserve of General Harry C. Trexler, who owned most of the property that became Hickory Run State Park.

Ⓘ Gould Trail
1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: benches

This trail winds through deciduous woods and fields, crossing Goulds Run at the trail's mid-point. In the summer, look and listen for indigo buntings, broad-winged hawks, field sparrows, and eastern bluebirds.

Ⓙ Hawk Falls Trail
0.6 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail wanders through a tunnel of rhododendron and ends with a view of Hawk Falls, a natural, 25-foot waterfall. Swimming and picnicking are prohibited at Hawk Falls.

Ⓚ Hickory Run Trail
1.3 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended
Trailhead amenities: Non-flush restrooms

Starting in the Shades of Death parking area and accessed via 534, this trail descends into a field where the National Park Service built a picnic area and parking lot in the 1930s. Parts of the curbing can still be seen among the wildflowers. This is one of the best places in the park to see butterflies.

Ⓛ Lake Trail
0.6 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This short but very scenic trail runs around the back of Hickory Run Lake and connects Boulder Field Road to Stage Trail (V).

Ⓜ Leonardsville Trail
0.6 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail branches off the western end of Stage Trail (V). The trail resembles a tunnel through a remarkably dense stand of rhododendrons and, at times, seems almost completely enclosed.

Ⓝ Manor House Trail
2.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail begins off PA 534 and follows along the park boundary (white blazes) until it connects with Fourth Run Trail (G).

Ⓞ Nature Trail
0.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

This trail begins near the pavilion in the Sand Spring Day Use Area and meanders through a variety of tree and plant species. Self-guided brochures corresponding with the numbered posts along the trail are available at the trailhead and visitor center.

Ⓟ Orchard Trail
1.2 miles | Most difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail is a loop with a spur trail that connects to Hawk Falls Trail (J). It also provides access to the Mud Run Natural Area and fishing in Mud Run, a delayed-harvest and artificial-lures-only stream.

Ⓠ Pine Hill Trail
3.9 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Most of this trail follows the park boundary and travels through an oak-maple forest thick with mountain laurel.

Ⓡ Ridge Trail
1.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

Ridge trail is narrow and winds through the valley carved by Hickory Run. Near the fordway are remains of a double sawmill and flash dam built in the 1830s.

Ⓢ Sand Spring Trail
2.6 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

A wooden water tower and waterlines can be seen along this trail. These artifacts are from the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration during the mid-1930s and 1940s. Workers from these programs originally developed the park as a National Recreational Demonstration Area.

Ⓣ Shades of Death
1.0 mile | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities at visitor center: modern restrooms, potable water, benches

Despite the gruesome name, this is one of the most picturesque trails in the park. There are also remains of logging mills and dams dating back to the early 1800s.

Ⓤ Skyline Trail
2.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Skyline Trail branches off from Fireline Trail (F) and meanders through a forest dominated by beech, gray birch, and pitch pine. When it reconnects with Fireline Trail, it follows a ridge overlooking the Lehigh River.

Ⓥ Stage Trail
4.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail was once the stagecoach road from Bethlehem to Wilkes-Barre. The trail is surprisingly flat and shows the skill of early road builders.

Ⓦ Stone Trail
1.25 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restroom

This trail starts in the Boulder Field parking area and passes through sheep laurel, hemlocks, and deciduous forest along the park boundary.

Ⓦ Switchback Trail
0.7 mile | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail connects Hickory Run Trail (K) and Gould Trail (I). From Hickory Run Trail, the trail switchbacks up to the plateau, then meanders through a forest of beech, gray birch, and pitch pine to an intersection with Gould Trail.

Ⓨ Boundary Trail
1.5 miles | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail runs along the northern boundary of the park and connects Stone Trail (W) with Fourth Run Trail (G).

