Leonard Harrison State Park

On the east rim of the canyon, the 585-acre Leonard Harrison State Park has modern facilities, a visitor center, PA Wilds Conservation Shop, and scenic views of the gorge.

Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.698 Long. -77.45156

To reach Leonard Harrison State Park, the eastern rim of the canyon, take PA 660 west from Wellsboro for ten miles. It is recommended to stay on paved roads, especially when in an RV or hauling a trailer. There are many non-GPS routes in the area.

Visitor Center and Gift Shop

Leonard Harrison State Park's newly renovated Visitor Center and gift shop is open from late April to late October. Call the park office for hours and seasonal changes. The gift shop is operated by the PA Wilds. The PA Wilds Conservation Shop connects visitors with products proudly made in the PA Wilds region. www.PAWilds.com

History

Leonard Harrison State Park honors Leonard Harrison (1850–1929) of Wellsboro. Mr. Harrison was a civic-minded businessman who developed the original 121 acres of parkland known as "The Lookout."

Harrison donated the area to the Commonwealth in 1922. The park was further developed by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-155-PA Darling Run during the mid-1930s.



Mountain laurel

Colton Point State Park

On the west rim of the canyon, the 368-acre Colton Point State Park resonates with the rustic charm of the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s. The overlooks offer stunning views of the gorge.



Directions

GPS DD: Lat. 41.708144 Long -77.465204

From US 6 near Ansonia, follow Colton Road south for five miles.

Recreational Opportunities

ORGANIZED GROUP TENTING: Qualified adult or youth groups may rent one of the three, 30-person capacity areas from early May to mid-October. The camp is equipped with picnic tables and fire rings. Advance reservations are required. This area is rustic and natural; vehicles are prohibited in the camping area and must park in designated areas.

SNOWMOBILING: Registered snowmobiles may be operated on designated state forest land trails and roads after the last day of deer season until April 1, weather permitting. Contact Tioga State Forest Office for more information including trail and road conditions. The park provides parking, picnic tables, and restrooms. **ATVs are not considered snowmobiles.**

History

Colton Point was named for Henry Colton, a lumberman who supervised tree harvesting in this area in 1880. The logs were then floated down Pine Creek to sawmills in Williamsport. The land was purchased by the Commonwealth in the early 1900s.

Colton Point State Park was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp S-91-PA Watrous and opened to the public in 1936.

The CCC's contributions are still visible today through the five stone and timber pavilions in the park. In 1988, the CCC-built facilities were added to the National Register of Historic Places.



The Pine Creek Gorge



Leonard Harrison

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks are on opposite sides of Pine Creek Gorge, also called the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon." Many scenic vistas offer spectacular views into the glacial floodwater-carved canyon.

Pine Creek Gorge begins just south of Ansonia, along US 6, and continues south for about 47 miles. At its deepest point, the gorge is 1,450 feet deep. Within the park, the deepest point is approximately 800 feet, with steep canyon walls providing spectacular views.

Recreations include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, birdwatching, hunting, camping, and whitewater paddling.

FORMATION OF THE GORGE

Until about 20,000 years ago, Pine Creek flowed northeasterly. Multiple glacial advances and retreats pushed rocks, soil, and other debris ahead of the glacier and dammed up Pine Creek, forming a lake near Ansonia.

Meltwater from the retreating glaciers cut through what is now the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. This eventually redirected the flow of Pine Creek southerly from Ansonia. While most of the erosion was from the meltwater, the process continues today.

HUMAN INFLUENCE ON THE GORGE

The Indigenous people of the area used the Pine Creek Gorge as a major travel route. Just north of the park, near Ansonia, was a seasonal hunting camp called "Big Meadows."

The lumbering of native white pine, eastern hemlock, and assorted hardwoods, led to European settlement of the area. Each spring, logs were floated down the creek individually or in large rafts to mills in Williamsport. Lumber from this area helped to make Williamsport the lumber capital of the world in the 1880s. The white pine was commonly used for timber, and the hemlock bark was peeled and hauled to local tanneries to turn hides into leather. By the 1900s, only a few small areas of native forest were untouched in all of Pennsylvania.

Wildlife populations declined greatly due to the mass deforestation, immense forest fires, and unregulated hunting and trapping. Fortunately, through careful management, and several significant reintroduction efforts, wildlife has returned to the area.

Prior to being a world-class multi-use trail, Pine Creek Rail Trail was an active railroad. The Jersey Shore, Pine Creek, and Buffalo Railway Company began in 1883 by carrying timber to the sawmills in Tiadaghton, Cammal, and Slate Run. The railroad also transported coal north to New York State and vast amounts of hemlock bark to l local tanneries. The last train passed through the canyon on October 7, 1988. Today, the railbed has taken on a new life as a part of the state's extensive network of rail trails.

In 1968, 12 miles of the canyon were designated as a National Natural Landmark by the U. S. Department of the Interior. In 1992, Pine Creek was designated a Pennsylvania Scenic River. In 1993, the gorge became a State Park Natural Area, which will protect it in a natural state for future generations.

Park Information For Both Locations

Recreational Opportunities

CAMPING: The campground at Colton Point State Park is open from early May until mid-October. Non-flush restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, and fire rings are provided. Campsites at are non-reservable; available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Leonard Harrison State Park's campground is open from mid-April until late-October. Picnic tables, fire rings, showers, flush toilets, and a sanitary dump station are provided. Some sites have electricity.

FISHING: Fishing is available to those visitors who wish to make the long, steep hike down to Pine Creek. Species include trout, smallmouth bass, and panfish. Along the Turkey Path Trail are trout streams, Four-Mile Run (west rim) and Little Four-Mile (east rim). Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations and laws apply.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 250 acres of Leonard Harrison and 100 acres of Colton Point are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are white-tailed deer, turkey, rabbit, pheasant, and squirrel. The adjacent Tioga State Forest has additional hunting opportunities.

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.

HIKING: See reverse side.

PICNICKING: Picnic tables at Colton Point State Park are available for year-round use (no winter maintenance on Colton Road). There are also five reservable pavilions throughout the park. Three of the pavilions have fireplaces. Unreserved pavilions are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water, and trash bins are available at Leonard Harrison State Park. Schloder Pavilion can be reserved for a fee. If unreserved, the pavilion is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Reservations

Make online reservations at www.pa.gov/state-parks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.



Leonard Harrison

Learn, Experience, Connect

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks offer a wide variety of programs from April through October.

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.

At Leonard Harrison State Park, the ADA-accessible Visitor Center opens in mid-April and closes in mid-October. Educational exhibits located inside the center and along the overlooks detail the area's cultural and natural history.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Two 2-plug, 50 Amp electric vehicle charging stations are available for public use at Leonard Harrison State Park. One is in the park office parking lot and other is near the ADA parking by the visitor center. There is a 4-hour maximum time limit. Overnight charging is prohibited. Please move to another parking space once your vehicle has been charged or the maximum time-limit has been reached.

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.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged, or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from tVisit Potter-Tioga. 888-TIOGA-28. www.visitpottertioga.com

Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce. 570-724-1926. www.wellsboropa.com

Horseback trail rides, covered wagon rides, mountain biking, road bicycling, whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and airplane rides are available from private sources in the area.

The 159,466-acre **Tioga State Forest** provides timber products, wildlife habitat, and recreation. 570-724-2868

A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Park









Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Leonard Harrison State Park
4797 Route 660
Wellsboro, PA 16901-8970
570-724-3061
LeonardHarrisonSP@pa.gov

Make online reservations at www.pa.gov/state-parks or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

www.pa.gov/state-parks

PAStateParks

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2025

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 to summon medical, fire, or safety professionals.

Call or text 988 to contact a crisis center counselor during a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

Nearest Hospital
UPMC Wellsboro
32 Central Avenue
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-723-7764

Hiking

The trails lead to many beautiful vistas and waterfalls, but traverse rugged terrain, pass close to many steep cliffs, and may have slippery surfaces. Trails are subject to seasonal closure due to snow and ice, usually from late November into April. Closures are posted on the park website.

All trails are hiking only and blazed yellow except where noted below.

Plan ahead and prepare for a safe and enjoyable hiking experience.

- Always wear sturdy boots. Wearing sneakers, sandals, water shoes, and "street shoes" can lead to serious accidents.
- Be prepared. Pack proper clothing and equipment (first aid kit, map, compass, water, food, flashlight, extra layers, etc.).
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike and plan to be back well before dark.
- The weather changes quickly – check the forecast and be prepared. Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.

CAUTION: Hikers on the Turkey Path should be in good physical condition, wear sturdy boots, and use caution due to slippery/wet conditions and steep trail sections.

Trails at Leonard Harrison

Turkey Path (east side)

1 mile | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail

Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, drinking water, benches

This difficult trail descends one mile to the bottom of Pine Creek Gorge. The top half of the trail descends through a series of switchbacks to Little Four-mile Run. From there the trail continues along narrow switchbacks and wooden decking, bridges, and steps. The trail ends at the Pine Creek Rail Trail. There is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom, so it is an out-and-back trail and 2 miles in total.

Overlook Trail

0.6 mile | More difficult hiking | Loop trail

Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms

This trail offers scenic views of the Pine Creek Gorge as well as historic structures from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era. Including a stone trash incinerator, a pavilion, and reconstructed log cabin.

Pine Creek Rail Trail

1 mile in the park, 65 miles total | Easiest hiking | Point-to-point trail | No blazes

Recreations permitted: hiking, backpacking, biking, equestrian riding, cross-country skiing recommended

Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, benches

Passing through the park along the floor of the canyon, the 65-mile Pine Creek Rail Trail is ideal for families and individuals for an easy path. While hikers may access this trail via the Turkey Path from Leonard Harrison, other users must use one of many other access points. The next closest access is Darling Run, several miles north of the park.

Trails at Colton Point

Rim Trail

1.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail

Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, picnic tables, benches

This trail offers several vistas where hikers can enjoy geologic and natural views. It is perfect for families and hikers who have limited time. The trail also features areas of old growth forest designation.

Turkey Path (west side)

1.2 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail

Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, potable water

This difficult trail descends 1.2 miles to the floor of the canyon. It is a narrow, physically challenging trail featuring interesting geology. The highlight is a 70-foot cascading waterfall about 1/3 of the way down. There is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom, so it is an out-and-back trail and 2.4-miles in total.



LEONARD HARRISON & COLTON POINT STATE PARKS

PINE CREEK GORGE NATURAL AREA (TIOGA STATE FOREST)

TIOGA STATE FOREST

LEONARD HARRISON STATE PARK

COLTON POINT STATE PARK

PINE CREEK GORGE NATURAL AREA (TIOGA STATE FOREST)

To Ansonia (US 6), 5 Mi.

To Ansonia (Northern Terminus)

To Darling Run Access, 2 Mi.

To Leetonia, 18 Mi.

To Parking at Painter Leetonia Road

To Rattlesnake Rock (Southern Terminus)

To Blackwell Access, 11.5 Mi.

To Wellsboro, 10 Mi.

Private Land

Otter View

Barbour Rock Trail

Barbour Rocks Accessible Trail

West Rim Trail

Rim Trail

Turkey Path

Pine Creek Rail Trail

Overlook Trail

Colton Road

Deadman Hollow Road

Bear Run

Rexford Branch

Waterfall

Right Branch Fourmile Run

Little Four-mile Run

Stowell Run

Pine Creek

One Way

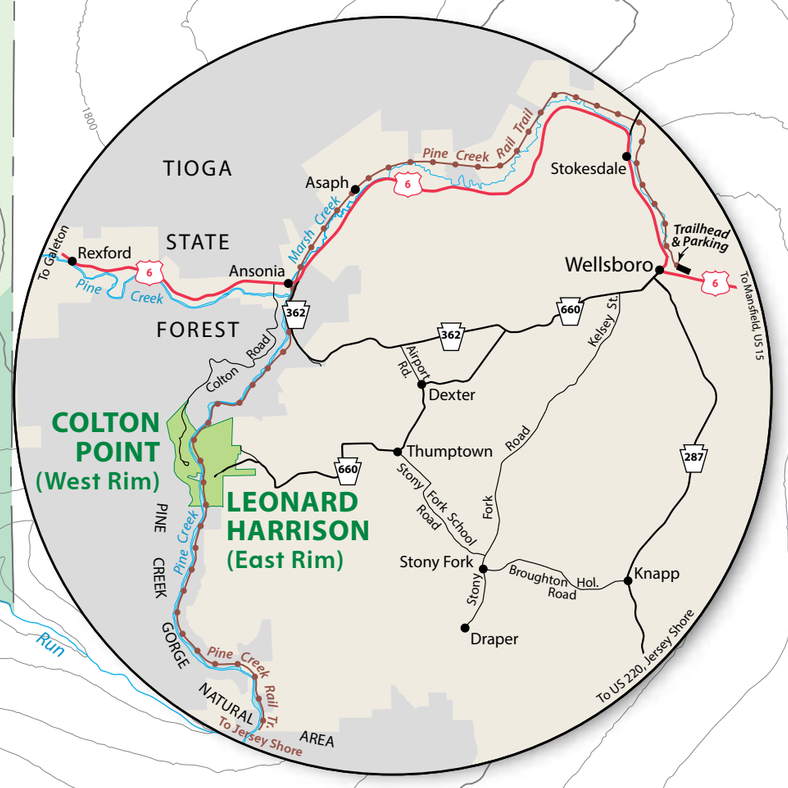
Park Office
Blue Symbols Mean ADA Accessible
Emergency Phone
Visitor Center
Restrooms - Modern
Restrooms - Non-flush
Water
First Aid
Playground
Picnicking
Picnic Pavilion
Camping
Organized Group Tenting
Scenic View
Color Enhancing Scenic Viewfinder
Bridge

Trail - Hiking
Trail - Paved
Trail - Multi-use: Skiing, Hiking, Biking, Horseback Riding
West Rim Trail
Cross-country Skiing Recommended
Road - Unpaved
Road - Paved
Road - Joint-use: Auto/Snowmobile
Parking - Unpaved
Parking - Paved
Parking - ADA-accessible
State Park - No Hunting
State Park - Hunting
State Park - Boundary
State Forest Natural Area

CONTOURS ARE ON 50 FT. INTERVALS

150 0 150 300 METERS

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 MILES



Rev. 2/9/2026