Trough Creek State Park

The 541-acre Trough Creek State Park is a scenic gorge formed as Great Trough Creek cuts through Trough Mountain before emptying into Raystown Lake. Rugged hiking trails lead to waterfalls like Balanced Rock and Rainbow Falls. Rothrock State Forest and Raystown Lake National Recreation Area border the park, making a large, contiguous area of public land for recreation.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**CAMPING:** 29 sites, all with electricity

The campground opens in mid-April and closes in mid-December. The campground accommodates any size camper and has a rustic restroom with showers. Each site has an electric hook-up, picnic table and campfire ring. Most sites have a separate crushed stone tent pad. Pets are permitted at designated campsites. A sanitary dump station is next to the park office.

**TROUGH CREEK LODGE:** This renovated, historic, two-story, stone home is available for rental year-round. The stone was covered with stucco and mortar to look like brick, a common practice when the home was built. Originally constructed in the mid-1800s as an innkeeper’s home, it has a modern con-in-kitchen, two bedrooms, four bathrooms, and an attic full of memorabilia. The lodge is accessible for people with disabilities.

**HIKING:** 12 miles of trails

HIKING & FIREARMS: About 100 acres are open to hiking, trapping and the training of dogs during designated seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, grouse, and squirrel. Trough Creek State Parkadjacent Rothrock State Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands, which are open for hiking. The park has Old Forge Road is open during hunting season to give access to forest lands. Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog hunting is only permitted on the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have game and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ASA accessible hunting information.

**SNOWMOBILING:** The park can be reached from Huntingdon by traveling 16 miles south on PA 26, then five miles south on PA 994 and entering the park office.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-7277), 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, for state park information and reservations.

**Directions**

The park can be reached from Huntingdon by traveling 16 miles south on PA 26, then five miles south on PA 994 and entering the park office.

**Natural History**

Trough Creek State Park is in the Valley and Ridge Province of the Appalachian Mountains. Once a great mountain range, weathering and running water reduced the Appalachians into long, narrow, sweeping ridges. Great Trough Creek carved away at the ridges creating the unique geologic features seen today. The gorge is still undergoing slow geologic changes as Great Trough Creek continues to erode the valley.

**WATERING WILDLIFE:** Trough Creek Drive is a great place to see waterbirds, like scarlet tanagers, vireos, warblers, flycatchers, songbirds, and kingbirds. Hiking trails are avenues to see spring wildflowers and hear or see spring warblers. Trails are lined with mountain laurel, which blooms in mid-May, and rhododendron, which blooms in early July.

**NEARBY ATTRACTIONS**

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau. www.raystown.org

**SPECIAL FEATURES:**

- Ice Mine: While building a railroad line, workers likely discovered cold air flowing from the mountain side, a natural cold storage vault. In 1879, the CCC discovered the site of one of three tourist ice mine sites in the state.
- Balanced Rock: This huge boulder is perched on the edge of a cliff, looking ready to fall off any moment into Great Trough Creek below. Balanced Rock, an area known as “a remnant,” has hung there for thousands of years. The rock was once part of a cliff with layers of hard and soft rocks.
- Copperas Rocks: Copperas Rocks is named for the copper-yellow stain on the cliff surface. The crystalline, yellow precipitate is a ferric oxide that leaches from a small pocket of coal. Although this substance is one of the main pollutants in abandoned mine drainage, the small quantity here is not harmful to the stream.
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**Copperas Rocks:**

Stone is commonly found in the state and is often used in masonry work. The park also has a variety of birds, including cardinals, robins, and blue jays.

**History**

The Appalachian Mountains blocked the movement of settlers from the east. Settling along the Trough Creek Gorge until Nicholas Cram traveled northeast from Baltimore in 1835. Cram harnessed the power of the creek with a watermill, a gristmill, and a tannery to relieve the entrance of Ice Mine. Today, little ice forms in Ice Mine, likely because the stone wall around Ice Mine blocks the waterflow. During the spring and summer, visitors can experience the chill of winter by stepping down into Ice Mine.

In 1918, the partnership of Caprio and Griscom established a logging railroad from Markleburg, Pennsylvania, to Paradise Furnace, a distance of eight miles. As Paradise Furnace, a sawmill produced pine, spruce, timber, and railroad ties from the second-growth timber of the valley. In 1918, the railroad incorporated as the Juniata and Southern Railroad and extended the rail line seven miles to reach the Broad Top Coal and Mineral Company’s mine at Jacobs, Pennsylvania. In 1917, the mine closed and the timber was depleted. The railroad was dismantled and scrapped. Due to the need for metal for World War I, the scrap sold for more than the original cost to build the railroad. With the loss of its income, the railroad was forced to close.

In 1973, to obviate the rampant unemployment of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The young men in the CCC received food, clothes, and a small paycheck in return for building roads, trails and recreational facilities, fighting forest fires, planting trees, and performing many other conservation activities.

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**Rothrock State Forest:**

Over 97,000 acres of state forest land in Huntington County provides wooded land for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and low-impact recreation. 814-658-3947

**Rays Town Lake:**

This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation area encompasses 36 miles long, 5,000 surface acre lake and surrounding 21,000 acres of land. Raystown offers campgrounds, unlimited houseboating hunting, marinas, beaches, scenic overlooks and trails. 814-384-3549

**Access for People with Disabilities**

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are accessible with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication is available in alternative forms.

If you require reasonable 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**

J.C. Strothman Memorial Hospital, 1225 Warm Springs Avenue

Huntington, PA 16625

814-643-2290

**For More Information Contact:**

Trough Creek State Park
18362 Little Valley Road
Jamestown, PA 16636
814-658-3847

G.I.P.S. D.L.: 40.311291 Long., -78.12684
184-858-3847

troughcreek@pa.gov

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www.visitPAparks.com

Information and Reservations

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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 is 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 invasive insects or plant diseases. Bringing firewood from the park from other areas may accidentally spread pest insects and plant diseases. Bringing firewood into the park may result in death to the forest. You are encouraged to buy firewood from a local firewood supplier and to use your own firewood.

- You must have a permit if you have a fire in a proper facilities and properly disposing of hot coals. Do not leave a fire unattended.

- An uncontrolled fire may cause wildfire or wildfires, you may be charged and attended at all times and on a head, caged or caged.

- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
Trail conditions may be slippery when wet or icy depending on weather conditions. Hikers should exercise caution and wear sturdy hiking boots with ankle support. Trails follow rock ledges with vertical cliffs and pass through narrow sections with rocks and roots covering the surface. Some trails offer stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

**ABOT ROCK:** 2.18 miles, red blazes, moderate hiking. Starting at Ice Mine, Boulder Trail follows an old logging road up the mountain through an oak and hemlock forest and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 0.43-mile loop by following Leading Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail to the suspension bridge parking lot.

**BROOMBAUGH:** 2.4 miles, orange blazes, most difficult hiking. Starting at Abbot Run, this trail climbs a fairly steep and rocky slope through oak and hemlock trees and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 2.5-mile loop by following Leading Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail to the suspension bridge parking lot.

**COPPERAS ROCK:** 0.45 mile, red blazes, moderate hiking. Starting along Trough Creek Drive at Copperas Rock Trail and ending at the suspension bridge, this trail offers a beautiful view of Raystown Lake. The trail provides hiking and backpacking spanning some of the area’s most remote and challenging terrain. The trail crosses state park, state forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lands. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: 814-658-3405

**Raven Rock:** The cliff site that local legend says was a favorite nesting site for ravens. Starting from the trailhead at Raven Rock, the trail takes hikers by the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock, and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock. Hikers will need to turn around to return to Balanced Rock.

**Damp Bridge:** To PA 994, 3.0 Mi. & Newburg, 3.4 Mi.

**Rainbow Falls:** This trail starts at Trough Creek Drive. It passes over Great Trough Creek via a suspension bridge then drops through beautiful Rainbow Falls. The trail ascends a flight of CCC-built stone steps overlooking Abbot Run and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock.

**Great Trough Creek:** This trail starts at Trough Creek Drive. It passes over Great Trough Creek via a suspension bridge then drops through beautiful Rainbow Falls. The trail ascends a flight of CCC-built stone steps overlooking Abbot Run and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock.

**Copperas Rock Trail:** To PA 994, 3.0 Mi. & Newburg, 2.6 Mi.

**Ice Mine:** Boulder Trail follows an old logging road up the mountain through an oak and hemlock forest and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 0.43-mile loop by following Leading Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail to the suspension bridge parking lot.

**Balanced Rock:** This trail starts at Trough Creek Drive. It passes over Great Trough Creek via a suspension bridge then drops through beautiful Rainbow Falls. The trail ascends a flight of CCC-built stone steps overlooking Abbot Run and ends at the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock.

**Trough Creek Drive:** Starting along Trough Creek Drive at Copperas Rock, this scenic trail meanders across Laurel Run numerous times on rustic bridges in between two ridges and into state forest land, then crosses Terrace Mountain Road and ends with a moderate incline to Boulder Trail.

**Raven Rock Trail:** To PA 994, 3.0 Mi. & Newburg, 2.6 Mi.

**Paradise Furnace:** Starting at the Paradise Furnace ruins, this trail crosses a small stream and passes remnants of the old Paradise Furnace schoolhouse. This trail starts near the upper end of Abbot Run Trail. It takes hikers by the geologic wonder, Balanced Rock, and ends along Trough Creek at the base of Raven Rock where hikers will need to turn around to return to Balanced Rock. Raven Rock is the cliff site that local legend says was a favorite nesting site for ravens.

**Rhododendron Trail:** 1.8 miles, green blazes, more difficult hiking. Starting at Copperas Rock, this trail climbs a fairly steep and rocky slope through oak and hemlock trees and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 2.5-mile loop by following Leading Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail to the suspension bridge parking lot.

**Laurel Run:** 0.18 miles, green blazes, more difficult hiking. Starting at Abbot Run, this trail climbs a fairly steep and rocky slope through oak and hemlock trees and ends on Ledges Trail. Hikers can make a 2.5-mile loop by following Leading Trail to Abbot Run Trail, descending to Rainbow Falls and following Rhododendron Trail to the suspension bridge parking lot.