The primary opportunity for free-time fun is to provide opportunities for enjoying the natural outdoor recreation and serve as outdoor education for the students in creating those resources. The conservation of the natural, aesthetic, and historical values of parks should be given first consideration. Successful management of parks on a new basis that promotes the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

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APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Running through the heart of the park is probably the most famous footpath in the world, the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). To commemorate the completion of half of the journey, the Appalachian Trail Museum, which is located near the Pine Grove General Store, is a popular stopping point for short-term backpackers on the Appalachian Trail. Boiling Springs is the north staging point for short-term backpackers and 717-486-5031, which offers general program information. 717-352-2211

Hiking the A.T.

The Appalachian Trail is a popular destination for short-term backpackers and hikers. About 2.5 to 6 million people use a portion of the A.T. each year. Pine Grove Furnace State Park is a popular camping point for short-term backpackers on the Appalachian Trail. Boiling Springs to the earth and Caledonia to the south are each about a 20-mile hike from Pine Grove Furnace.

POLE STEEPLE TRAIL: 0.25 miles, yellow blazes, easiest hiking

This short trail circles a small, forested swamp filled with interesting plants and animals. The trail begins and ends on the rail trail.

Tell us about your hike at:

• Take animals, especially when kids are called thru-hikers and most pass through central Maine. The trail is marked with white blazes, which can be seen along this trail.

Deer, heron, waterfowl, and beaver can be seen along this trail.

Mountain Creek downstream to Laurel Lake.

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