**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 December through April. Closures are posted on the park website.

The following guidelines will help ensure 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. Have proper clothing and equipment when hiking during non-summer seasons. Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.
- Stay on the trails. Leaving the trail causes damage to the trails well before dark.
- When shortening daylight, cool nights and warm days, wind, and adequate moisture through the preceding seasons are factor in the brilliance of the fall foliage. These factors also determine when the leaves will change in the gorge. Droughts, wind, and cold temperatures can cause leaves to drop early in the fall. The timing of the fall foliage varies from year to year. However, the first three weeks in October provide a spectrum of fall foliage.

**Trails at Leonard Harrison**

Turkey Path Trail: (Leonard Harrison side) 2 miles round trip, most difficult hiking

This narrow trail descends one mile to the bottom of Pine Creek Gorge. It is a down and back trail. There is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom. The top half of the trail descends through a series of switchbacks to a view of Little Four-Mile Run at 0.5 miles, then on a short distance to the first waterfall. The trail continues downward along a series of switchbacks and wooden decking, bridges, and steps. The last part of the trail is along a series of waterfalls. The trail ends at the Pine Creek Trail.

Overlook Trail: 0.5 mile, more difficult hiking

This steep path leads to one of the highest points in the area. It offers a great view of the entire gorge. The drive up Colton Road to Colton Point State Park and the four overlooks offer spectacular fall foliage viewing opportunities.

**Trails at Colton Point**

Rim Trail: 1 mile, easiest hiking

Not to be confused with the West Rim Trail. Rim Trail follows the perimeter of the “rim” and links the many park overlooks together into a rewarding hike that also includes a section of old growth timber.

Turkey Path: (Colton Point side) 3 miles round trip, most difficult hiking

This narrow trail descends along steep hillsides 1.5 miles to the floor of the Canyon and is best-suited for experienced hikers. The highlight is a 70-foot cascading waterfall less than 0.5 mile down. It is a down and back trail. There is no bridge across Pine Creek at the bottom.

**Pine Creek Trail**

The 62-mile Pine Creek Trail is a multi-use trail for hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing. Located at the bottom of the Pine Creek Gorge, one mile of this trail is in Leonard Harrison State Park. While hikers may access this trail via the Turkey Path from Leonard Harrison, cyclists and other users must use one of many other access points, the closest being Darling Run, nine miles north of the park.

Trail users can view dramatic rock outcrops, waterfalls, and wildlife like eagle, osprey, crayfish, deer, wild turkey, hares, river otter, black bear, and many others. Diverse plant life, scattered old-growth timber, historic pine and spruce plantations, and several foundations from the Civilian Conservation Corps era can be found along the trail.

**Fall Foliage**

Leonard Harrison and Colton Point state parks offer outstanding opportunities for fall leaf viewing. Shortening daylight, cool nights and warm days, wind, and adequate moisture through the preceding seasons factor in the brilliance of the fall foliage. These factors also determine when the leaves will change in the gorge. Droughts, wind, and cold temperatures can cause leaves to drop early in the fall. The timing of the fall foliage varies from year to year. However, the first three weeks in October provide a spectrum of fall foliage.

The overlooks at Leonard Harrison offer the best view of the entire gorge. The drive up Colton Road to Colton Point State Park and the fire overlooks offer spectacular fall foliage viewing opportunities.

**General Fall Foliage Colors of Trees**

- Red: maple, red oak, black cherry, sumac, aspen
- Yellow/Orange: sugar maple, hickories, oaks, sweetgum, boxwood, aspen, tule poplar, birches, chestnut oak, serviceberry, black walnut
- Green: white oak, black oak, beech