Many recreational opportunities are available in the gorge. Some of these activities are regulated by the Bureau of State Parks or by the Bureau of Forestry, which have slightly different rules and regulations. Visitors can fish, mountain bike, ride horses, fish, birdwatch, hike, camp, and occasionally whitewater canoe or kayak.

**Formation of the Gorge**

Until about 20,000 years ago, Pine Creek flowed to the southeast. Until about 20,000 years ago, Pine Creek flowed to the southeast. Today, the park has a deeply carved gorge, with steep cliffs and many small waterfalls. The gorge is about 800 feet deep and 1,500 feet wide in places. The gorge was formed by glacial erosion during the last ice age, about 15,000 to 20,000 years ago. The ice carved a deep channel along the course of the creek, creating the gorge we see today.

**Climate**

The climate in Leonard Harrison State Park is temperate, with mild winters and warm summers. The average temperature in January is 29°F (-1.8°C) and in July is 72°F (22.2°C). The average annual precipitation is 42 inches (1,067 mm).

**Directions**

Hiking: Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other pets are prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day before Labor Day to October 31st.

**Recreational Activities**

**Hunting and Firearms:** About 250 acres of Leonard Harrison and 100 acres of Colton Point is open to hunting during hunting seasons. Common game species are deer, turkey, rabbit, pheasant, and squirrel. Hunting is also allowed in adjacent Tioga State Forest.

**Hiking:**

Easy to moderate hiking trails are available in the park. Some of the trails are accessible to people with disabilities.

**Camping:**

Campgrounds are available in the park. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. All proceeds benefit Pennsylvania State Parks.

**Picnicking:**

Picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also fire rings for visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A seasonal environmental educator presents natural and cultural programs on wildlife, seasonal changes, glaciation, and other topics to visitors, organized groups, and school groups. Contact the park office for ADA accessible housing information.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Leonard Harrison State Park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter County, 814-TOGA-28, or visitpottercounty.com. Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 570-724-2102, provides information on nearby attractions.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAParks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

**History**

Leonard Harrison State Park

Leonard Harrison (1850-1929) was a civil engineer and was the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a leading advocate of adopting the highway system in Pennsylvania.

**Directions**

To reach Leonard Harrison State Park from the eastern rim of the canyon, take PA-620 west from Wellsboro for three miles.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**Camping:**

Camping areas are available in the park. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Advance reservations are required. This area is rustic in nature and so vehicles are prohibited in the park.

**Picnicking:**

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water, and trash bins are available. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Additional lands were added to the park in the late 1920s to form Tiadaghton State Forest and the Susquehanna State Forest.

**Restaurants:**

Picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also fire rings for visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A seasonal environmental educator presents natural and cultural programs on wildlife, seasonal changes, glaciation, and other topics to visitors, organized groups, and school groups. Contact the park office for ADA accessible housing information.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Leonard Harrison State Park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter County, 814-TOGA-28, or visitpottercounty.com. Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 570-724-2102, provides information on nearby attractions.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAParks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

**History**

Leonard Harrison State Park

Leonard Harrison (1850-1929) was a civil engineer and was the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a leading advocate of adopting the highway system in Pennsylvania.

**Directions**

To reach Leonard Harrison State Park from the eastern rim of the canyon, take PA-620 west from Wellsboro for three miles.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**Camping:**

Camping areas are available in the park. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Advance reservations are required. This area is rustic in nature and so vehicles are prohibited in the park.

**Picnicking:**

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water, and trash bins are available. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Additional lands were added to the park in the late 1920s to form Tiadaghton State Forest and the Susquehanna State Forest.

**Restaurants:**

Picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also fire rings for visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A seasonal environmental educator presents natural and cultural programs on wildlife, seasonal changes, glaciation, and other topics to visitors, organized groups, and school groups. Contact the park office for ADA accessible housing information.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Leonard Harrison State Park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter County, 814-TOGA-28, or visitpottercounty.com. Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 570-724-2102, provides information on nearby attractions.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAParks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

**History**

Leonard Harrison State Park

Leonard Harrison (1850-1929) was a civil engineer and was the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a leading advocate of adopting the highway system in Pennsylvania.

**Directions**

To reach Leonard Harrison State Park from the eastern rim of the canyon, take PA-620 west from Wellsboro for three miles.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**Camping:**

Camping areas are available in the park. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Advance reservations are required. This area is rustic in nature and so vehicles are prohibited in the park.

**Picnicking:**

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water, and trash bins are available. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Additional lands were added to the park in the late 1920s to form Tiadaghton State Forest and the Susquehanna State Forest.

**Restaurants:**

Picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also fire rings for visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A seasonal environmental educator presents natural and cultural programs on wildlife, seasonal changes, glaciation, and other topics to visitors, organized groups, and school groups. Contact the park office for ADA accessible housing information.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Leonard Harrison State Park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter County, 814-TOGA-28, or visitpottercounty.com. Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 570-724-2102, provides information on nearby attractions.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAParks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.

**History**

Leonard Harrison State Park

Leonard Harrison (1850-1929) was a civil engineer and was the chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. He was a leading advocate of adopting the highway system in Pennsylvania.

**Directions**

To reach Leonard Harrison State Park from the eastern rim of the canyon, take PA-620 west from Wellsboro for three miles.

**Recreational Opportunities**

**Camping:**

Camping areas are available in the park. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Advance reservations are required. This area is rustic in nature and so vehicles are prohibited in the park.

**Picnicking:**

Picnic tables, charcoal grills, restrooms, drinking water, and trash bins are available. The campground is open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October. Additional lands were added to the park in the late 1920s to form Tiadaghton State Forest and the Susquehanna State Forest.

**Restaurants:**

Picnic tables are available for year-round use. There are also fire rings for visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

**Environmental Education and Interpretation**

A seasonal environmental educator presents natural and cultural programs on wildlife, seasonal changes, glaciation, and other topics to visitors, organized groups, and school groups. Contact the park office for ADA accessible housing information.

**In an Emergency**

Call 911 and contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the Leonard Harrison State Park office.

**Nearby Attractions**

Information on nearby attractions is available from Visit Potter County, 814-TOGA-28, or visitpottercounty.com. Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, 570-724-2102, provides information on nearby attractions.

**Reservations**

Make online reservations at www.visitPAParks.com or call toll-free 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday to Saturday.
Hiking

The trails lead to many beautiful vistas and waterfalls, but involve rugged terrain, pass close to tumbling rock 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 shoes. Wearing sandals, sneakers, water shoes, and "street shoes" can lead to serious accidents.
- Be prepared. Have proper clothing and equipment (compass, map, matches, water, food, flashlight, etc.) available in case of stormy weather. This is especially important when travelling most trails or when hiking during in-summer seasons.
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike. The weather changes quickly in the park. Plan to leave the trail well before dark.
- Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.
- Stay on the trails. Leaving the trail causes damage to unique natural resources, promotes erosion, and can be dangerous. Stay behind the railings and fences. Avoid the temptation to get on rock outcroppings for a better view.
- Don’t take shortcuts from one trail section to another. Taking shortcuts down switchbacks is dangerous and causes trail damage.
- Tell us about your hike at: www.exploreparks.com

CAUTION: Hikers on 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 Trail (Leonard Harrison side) 2 miles round trip, most difficult hiking. This 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 a Little Pine-Mill Run 0.5 miles, then on a short distance to the first waterfall. The trail continues downward along narrow switchbacks and wooden decking, bridges, and steps. The lower part of the trail runs along a series of waterfalls. The trail ends at the Pine Creek Trail.

Osborn Trail 0.6 miles, most difficult hiking. This steep path passes Otter View, a vista-looking north. While short, sections are still very steep. The suggested direction of travel is downhill.

Trails at Colton Point

Rim Trail 1 mile, easiest hiking. To be continued with the West Rim Trail. Rim Trail follows the perimeter of the "point" and links the many park overlooks together. It is 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 Colton 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 off the 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 routes, the closest being Darling Run, nine miles north of the park. Trail users can view dramatic rock outcrops, waterfalls, and rock slabs like apple, spruce, arborvitae, and wild onions. Diverse plant life, scattered old-growth forests, laurel pine and sparse vegetation, 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 ample moisture through the preceding seasons are the primary factors that influence the fall foliage. These factors determine when the leaves will change color. Droughts, wind, and subfreezing temperatures can cause leaves to drop early in the fall. The timing of 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. Drive up Colton Road to Colton Point State Park and the four overlooks offer spectacular fall foliage viewing opportunity.

General Fall Foliage Colors of Trees

Red: scarlet oak, red maple, black cherry, sumac, sassafras
Yellow/Green: sugar maple, beech, Hickory, cottonwood, hickory, aspen, tamarack, birch, chestnut oak, sycamore, red oak, white oak
Brown: white oak, black oak, beech

PINE CREEK GORGE
NATURAL AREA
(Tioga State Forest)