HICKORY RUN STATE PARK

HISTORY

Devastation and renewal is the history of the land that would become Hickory Run State Park. The last big advance ended in the 19th century, when most of the region’s forests were cleared. The spirit of this area was defined by the trees, and their fall marked the start of a new era. The first farmers in the area found forests of conifers and some hardwoods, such as oaks, hickories, maple, and beech. Hickory Run became known for its beautiful sandy soil that allowed crops to thrive. However, by the 18th century, the forest had been cleared for agriculture, and the area was left barren. The first colonists cleared the area and built homes and homesteads. Hickory Run State Park is the earliest evidence of this early settlement.

In 1838, the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Canal was cut down through the center of the park. The canal continued until mid-December. Pets are permitted in the park. There are some restrictions, so please check before you go.

The 15,990-acre Hickory Run State Park, Carbon County, lies in the western foothills of the Pocono Mountains. This large park has over 20 miles of hiking trails, seven state park natural areas, and miles of trout streams. Belfield Point, a striking bluestone area, is a Natural Landmark.

Pick up a free Pocket Ranger App by Parks by Nature or check out the website for natural history and fun facts about the park. There are some restrictions, so please check before you go.

For your information: Call 911 and contact a park employee. For detailed information about the park, call the park office at 570-334-2261. The Lehigh Valley Heritage Corridor is located at 204 Lehigh Valley Heritage Corridor, Lehighton, PA 18235.

NATURAL HISTORY

GEOGRAPHY: Hickory Run State Park is located on a moraine, which is the solidified remains of a glacier. The moraine is the result of the glacier’s movement and the deposition of sediments. The moraine is a natural barrier that separates the park from the Lehigh River Valley. The moraine is a natural barrier that separates the park from the Lehigh River Valley. The moraine is a natural barrier that separates the park from the Lehigh River Valley.

ECOLOGICAL WILDLIFE: Hickory Run State Park is home to a diverse array of wildlife, including deer, raccoons, opossums, birds, and fish. The park is home to more than 200 species of birds, including ospreys, blue jays, and cardinals. The park is also home to several species of snakes, including black snakes, garter snakes, and milk snakes.

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HIKING: 44.8 MILES OF TRAILS

Most of the park trails were created under the guidance of the National Park Service between 1936 and 1945. Many of the trails were cut from the lands of Hickory Run and Spread-Eyed that financed the trails between 1936 and 1940. As you hike, think of all the people and families that have shared these trails in the past and preserve those trails for the use of future generations.

Trail Guidelines:

• Blue blazes are hiking and cross-country skiing trails.
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• White blazes are access points.
• Black blazes are other trails.
• Yellow blazes are fire roads.

The trails in the park will vary in difficulty due to thick vegetation and should only be attempted by experienced hikers. This trail is also an access point for fishing in Mud Run, wanders through a tunnel of rhododendron thickets and hugs the side of a hill down to Hawk Run. A large rock boulder crosses the creek. The trail begins right at Mud Run, wanders through a tunnel of rhododendron and ends at a view of Hawk Run, a natural 25-foot waterfall. This trail is also an access point for fishing in Mud Run, which is deep and narrow and contains large boulders.

HAWK FALLS TRAIL: 0.6 miles, most difficult hiking

Parking is available off of PA 534 at the intersection of Mud Run and the Lehigh River. This trail takes you along the edge of Mud Run, provides access to the Mud Run Natural Area, and offers a picturesque overlook of the Lehigh River. The trail is a good choice for challenging hiking, especially in the spring and summer.

Parking is available off of PA 534 at the intersection of Mud Run and the Lehigh River. This trail takes you along the edge of Mud Run, provides access to the Mud Run Natural Area, and offers a picturesque overlook of the Lehigh River. The trail is a good choice for challenging hiking, especially in the spring and summer.

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