The Pinchot Trail is a 26-mile state forest hiking trail and is open to foot traffic only. This loop can easily be done in a weekend excursion or several side trails or roads can be used to make smaller day hiking loops. This relatively easy trail traverses a variety of different forest types and travels along several bogs and wetlands. One of the highlights of this trail is the scenic Choke Creek Falls.

District Hiking Trails

The Watres Trail is a 6-mile side loop of the Pinchot Trail. This path traverses some of the most remote portions of the Thornhurst Tract as it winds its way along Painter and Panther Creeks.

The Pine Hill Trail offers access off of the Pinchot Trail to the Pine Hill Vista and can be used to make a short loop with the Frank Gantz Trail.

Choke Creek Nature Trail and Butler Run Trail can be used to form shorter loops with the southern portion of the Pinchot Trail.

Manny Gordon Recreation Area

This recreation area is named after former district forester Manny Gordon who is well known for his urging of local residents to "enjoy, enjoy" the great outdoors. There are two pavilions, several picnic tables, and fire rings available for use. Three rustic campsites can also be utilized free of charge but must be reserved. Please note that hunting is closed in the recreation area.

Camping

In addition to the campsites at the Manny Gordon Recreation Area, there are three remote sites throughout the tract. One on Fireline Road, one on Sassafras Hill, and one on Carvolth Road. Please observe all state forest rules and regulations and practice leave-no-trace principles. Contact the resource management center for a free camping permit and brochure.

Snowmobiling

A well-marked, 28-mile snowmobile trail opens the day after regular rifle deer season closes. Snowmobile off-loading areas are located at the Manny Gordon Recreation Area and in the parking area at the intersection of Pittston Road and Bear Lake Road. The snowmobile trail system remains open until March 31 as conditions permit.

Pine Hill Vista

The observation deck on Pine Hill offers a sweeping 360-degree panorama of the Pocono Plateau. It is particularly beautiful in autumn with vibrant displays of fall colors. This vista is a short walk from a parking area on Pine Hill Road.

Spruce Swamp Natural Area

This 87-acre site is found at the headwaters of Sand Spring Creek along Tannery Road. This glacial bog contains native spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack. Labrador tea and bog rosemary, not commonly found in Pennsylvania, also grow here. Surrounding the bog and acting as a buffer is a typical hardwood forest interspersed with hemlock and assorted pines.

CCC Camp S-140

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a program in the 1930s designed to put young men to work performing various conservation projects. One camp was found in what is today the Pinchot State Forest at the Manny Gordon Recreation Area.

Pinchot State Forest

Pinchot State Forest is named in honor of former Pennsylvania governor and state forester Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot was a visionary of forest management whose considerable influence on President Theodore Roosevelt helped spark a national awareness of responsible forestry practices and conservation. The district's approximately 50,000 acres of state forest blanket many of the mountains near the confluence of the Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers. Pinchot State Forest land is distributed over several unattached tracts including Thornhurst, Harvey's Creek, Crystal Lake, Mocanaqua, Seven Tubs, Deep Hollow, Montage, Elmhurst, Moosic Mountain, and Wanamie.

Pinchot State Forest is an essential part of the acclaimed Pocono mountain region of northeast Pennsylvania. Evidence of the region's glacial past can be observed in sprawling boulder fields and many remaining ponds and lakes. Beautiful northern and mixed hardwood forest dominate the landscape, as well as some of the most spectacular waterfalls and geologic formations in the northeast U.S.