



The Vista

WATERFALLS
Off the Beaten Path...





To conserve, support and protect the park's resources by promoting education, recreation, and stewardship.

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“Spring shows what God can do

with a drab and dirty world.” Virgil A. Kraft

Spring rains and melting snows not only bring spring flowers, but also recharge our mountain streams and lakes... meaning that fishing season is right around the corner (see page 5). This issue features how anglers and others that enjoy the Loyalsock can find stream flow and water level data, including predicted levels for Loyalsock Creek (see page 9).

Speaking of water, spring is also the best season for exploring waterfalls as the rain and melting snows enhances even the smaller streams – turning many into beautiful and roaring brooks of cascades and waterfalls. Every spring in **The Vista**, we highlight some of these waterfalls – see starting on page 12 for this year’s tour!

In 2024, we welcome new park manager Matt Pecora—see page 3. Also coming later in 2024 is a bridge construction project that will impact park cabin users this coming autumn — see on page 6.

Finally, check out upcoming events this spring and summer—see starting on page 4.



DCNR Announces New Park Manager Matt Pecora

WORLDS END STATE PARK VISITORS CENTER AND PARK OFFICE



On January 5, 2024, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced the appointment of Matthew Pecora to manage Worlds End State Park.

“Matt’s thoughtfulness and can-do attitude have always been an asset to DCNR,” Dunn said. “We are confident he will continue his positive leadership at Worlds End, and be successful in sharing his passion for nature with the community.”

Pecora assumed management duties at Worlds End in July. Surrounded by the Loyalsock State Forest, the 780-acre park offers visitors diverse recreational opportunities within a pristine environment -- its rugged, natural beauty coursing through the heart of the Endless Mountains provides many photographic possibilities.

“The outdoors are where I feel the most at home and I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this amazing and peaceful park,” Pecora said. “I am excited for the challenge of managing this park and its very talented staff.” Matt worked for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and then the Student Conservation Association (SCA) Excelsior Corps in Morrisville before becoming a project leader with the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps in Williamsport. A strong environmentalist, Pecora noted that he lives by the SCA mindset of leaving things better than you found them. He later worked with the Outdoor Corps in Philadelphia prior to joining DCNR full time as a park manager trainee in Pennsylvania’s eastern region with his most recent assignment as the assistant manager at Delaware Canal State Park.

Matt is a Rochester, New York native who holds an undergraduate degree in environmental biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He enjoys hiking, fishing and hunting in his free time.



ARCHERY CLASSES RETURN THIS SUMMER:

Last year's popular archery course returns this summer! If you have ever wanted to explore archery – here is your opportunity. Certified Archery Instructors Jane Swift and Mike Scott will once again be offering archery instruction at the park this summer with an emphasis on safe archery practices. The park will provide the equipment you need.

Ages: 9 – 90 Location: Point Pavilion.

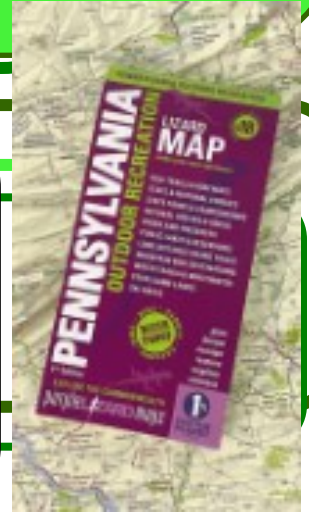
DATES: All classes 9:30 – 10:30:

JUNE: Tuesday 18th.

JULY: Wednesday 3rd; Tuesday 16th; Tuesday 30th.

AUGUST: Tuesday 13th; Tuesday 27th.

SEPTEMBER: Tuesday 3rd.



NEW PURPLE LIZARD STATEWIDE MAP:

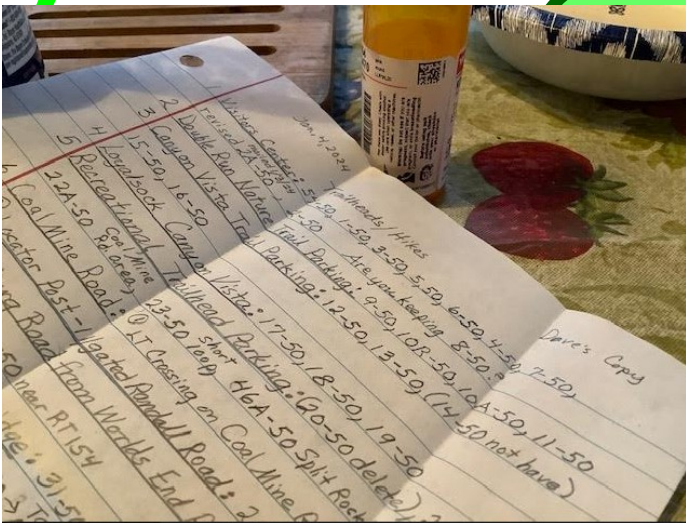
Our friends at Purple Lizard maps have just released a new map highlighting outdoor recreational activities across Pennsylvania, including parks, forests, trails, cycling trails, ski areas, water trails, etc. It can be purchased at the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation online store:

<https://ppff.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/ppff/giftstore.jsp>

NEW GUIDE AND MAP PROJECT UNDERWAY:

Trailblazers Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode are hard at work on their next project, which will be a map and guide of approximately 50 different hikes in and around Worlds End.

Target timeframe for the release of this guide is later in 2025. See page 17 for their works that are currently available.



Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season - April 6

Get your license:

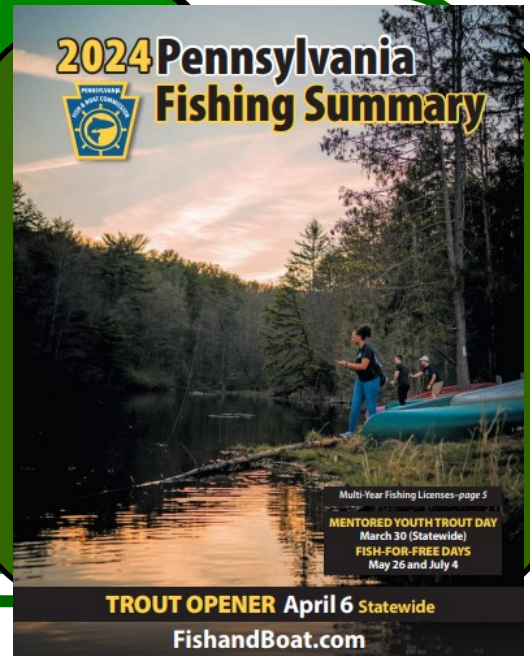
<https://www.fishandboat.com/Fishing/Buy-License/Pages/default.aspx>

The 2024 PA Fishing Summary:

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Fishing/Regulations/Documents/SummaryBook.pdf>

Stocking Schedules:

https://fbweb.pa.gov/stocking/TroutStockingDetails_GIS.aspx



WORLDS END ULTRAMARATHON JUNE 1!

One of the toughest, most scenic trail races in the country returns to Worlds End State Park and the Loyalsock State Forest on Saturday June 1. The 100k event starts at 5:00AM with the 50k event starting at 7:00AM. The course is predominantly rugged single-track that winds it's way through the Endless Mountains and takes runners to beautiful over-looks such as High Rock Vista, Canyon Vista, Upper and Lower Alpine View, Kettle Creek Vista, and High Knob Overlook - along with spectacular cascades and falls like Double Run, Dry Run, Rode Falls and Lee's Falls in the Ketchum Run Gorge. The Worlds End 100k is part of the Pennsylvania Triple Crown of Mountain Running that requires participants to complete the Hyner 50k, Worlds End 100k, and Eastern States 100. For more about this event: <https://worldsendultra.com/>

Volunteers are needed for Race Base Operations, Logistics/Aid Stations, Race Control, Medical, and Radio Operations. To find out more and to volunteer:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/PA/Forksville/>

(By the way... the 100K record for women was set in 2021 when Nicole Yokum completed the race in 13:23:05 ... the men's record was set in 2019 by Wesley Atkinson who completed the race in 10:50:38 .)

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE THIS SPRING:

Firewood is available for sale in the cabin area and campground this spring - \$8.00 per bundle. Look for the self-serve kiosk near the trash dumpsters on the right as you enter the cabin area and near the shower houses in the campground. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER:

If you are interested in volunteering at the park, we encourage you to register. Registering brings you insurance coverage and the ability to track your volunteer hours. See more on DCNR's website:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx>

UPCOMING CABIN AND BRIDGE CLOSURE:

The bridge spanning Loyalsock Creek, which provides access to the cabin colony at the park will be undergoing a full super-structure replacement throughout October and November of 2024. As a result, reservations for the cabin colony and group tenting sites at the Park will be unavailable during October and November of 2024. The closure of Cabin Bridge Road will also result in the rerouting of the Loyalsock Trail. Affected hikers should contact the park for more information. The park campground, located along Route 154, will not be impacted and will be open for its normal operating season dates.

For more information, contact Worlds Ends State Park at 570-924-3287 or by email at worldsendsp@pa.gov.

Project dates are subject to change, so monitor the park's social media and future issues of THE VISTA for updates.



The bridge has taken several hits from various flooding events over the years - above from the September 2011 flood and below from January 2010.

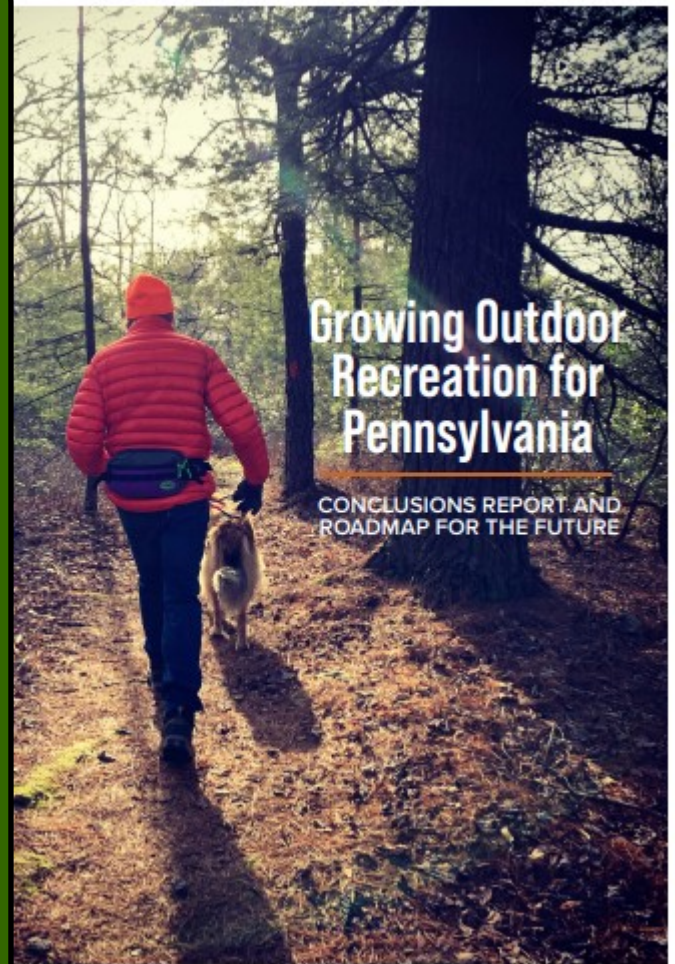


I love my state parks

Kicking off on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12, **I Love My State Parks Week** aims to increase the visibility of state parks and raise awareness about their many benefits, engage new audiences and promote access, and connect with the public through personal testimonials, storytelling, and photos showing why these spaces are so important.

On January 22, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) released the **Growing Outdoor Recreation for Pennsylvania Conclusions Report and Roadmap for the Future**, which creates an action plan to grow outdoor recreation's positive impact on communities, creating jobs and economic opportunity, and providing pathways to enjoy the outdoors. The 32-page Growing Outdoor Recreation Report includes feedback from stakeholders, outdoor recreationists, and the departments of Community and Economic Development, Health, and Transportation. The more than 50 actions listed in the report will assist with the larger strategic priorities of building capacity within Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation industry, building community and economic development capacity, and building the capacity for inclusive and equitable wellbeing for Pennsylvania. For more information and to access the report:

https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/dcnr_details.aspx?newsid=1050



THE GRINDURO INTERNATIONAL CYCLING EVENT RETURNS TO SULLIVAN COUNTY THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 7—9 AT ELK CREEK ESCAPE IN HILLSGROVE:

The Grinduro features almost 70 miles of mountain trails, woodland, soaring peaks and trails aplenty with four timed race stages. The cycling route takes riders through the Endless Mountains past historic logging towns, covered bridges, scenic vistas along gravel trails deep into the forests along a route that combines the best elements of a mountain bike enduro with a gravel grinder-style road race. Festivities include art and music, food, and camping! Volunteers are needed, including course marshals, packet pickup assistance, aid station support, podium helpers, and more. For information about registration, camping, and volunteering, check out the Grinduro website:

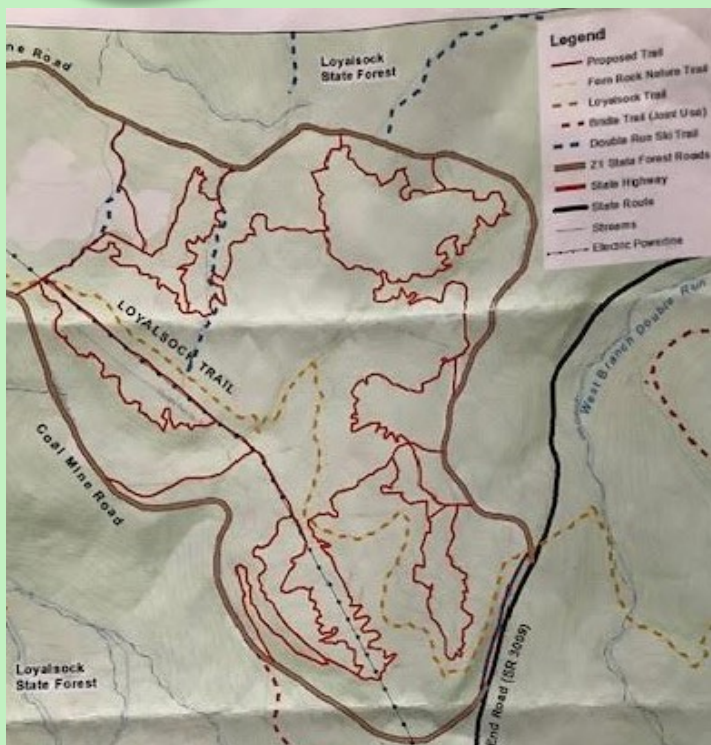
<https://grinduro.com/pennsylvania/>



CYCLING

New Mountain Bike Trails Now Open!

The Loyalsock State Forest has announced the creation and opening of new mountain bike trails on top of the mountain just outside Worlds End State Park. These new trails can be accessed via parking areas along Coal Mine Road off of Worlds End Road just south of the park. The 13 miles of new trails are generally rated as intermediate— with some work still to be done, such as a few bridges over some small wet areas. See more about this exciting news for cyclists in the upcoming summer edition of THE VISTA!





Flood Awareness on the Loyalsock

The Loyalsock surges under the route 154 bridge at the park in September 2011.

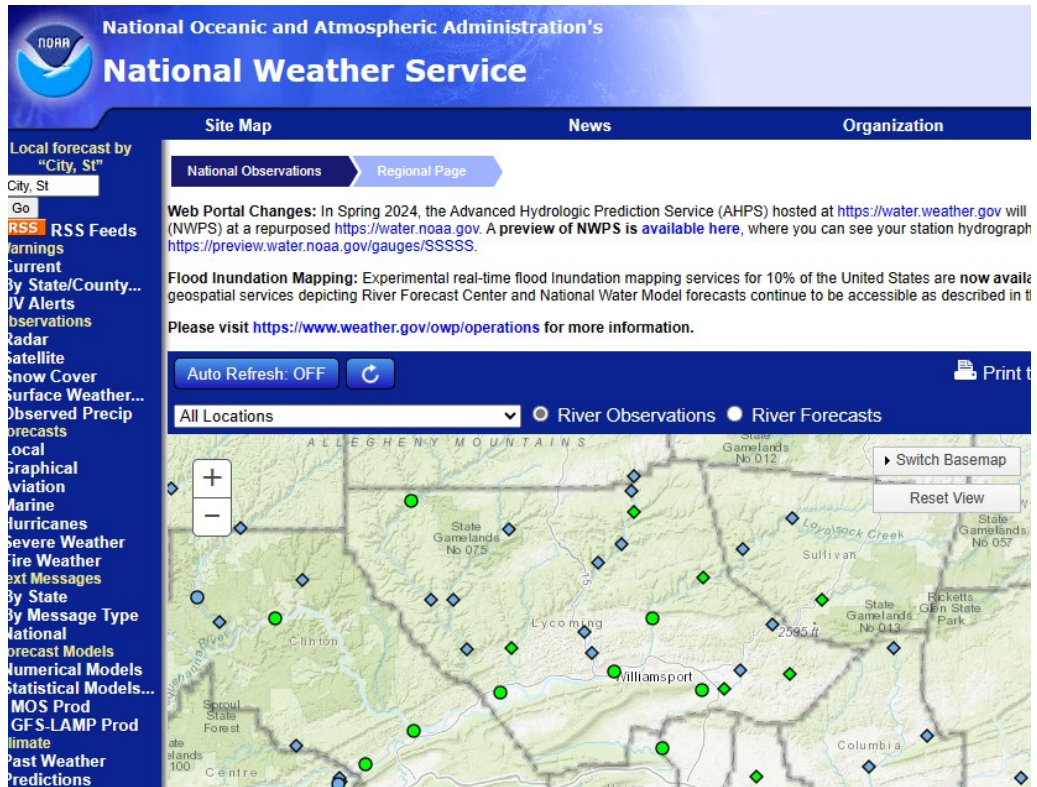
The late Marcus Schneck, author and outdoor columnist for the Harrisburg Patriot-News, in describing the Loyalsock, suggested it was if someone had lifted a wild, untamed stream from the Rocky Mountains and plopped it down amidst the endless mountains of northcentral Pennsylvania. For those familiar with this stream, it is an apt description. Its crystal clear waters is what attracts so many to Worlds End and the surrounding forest, and is a popular destination with fishermen, swimmers and kayakers. Traveling along it on nice summer day you will see people fishing, floating and basking in its waters. However, the same wildness that makes it so attractive can also make it dangerous at times.

I saw this with my own eyes on Independence Day in 2018, traditionally one of the busiest days at Worlds End. As the park filled with picnickers and others that morning looking to enjoy the holiday, a thunderstorm rolled in around mid-day with a pouring rain. After an hour or so, the rain stopped and everyone resumed their holiday at the park. However, we were unaware that miles to the east, over the Loyalsock's upper watershed, the storm was much worse— dumping 3-4 inches of rain— triggering a wave of water surging downstream. Fortunately, park management received warning of the approaching danger, and were able to clear the creek of swimmers and fishermen. We all watched in awe as the wave rolled down the creek through the park, with the water rising about 4 feet within minutes. Recent years, including 2023, have seen similar high-water events, sometimes necessitating water rescues.

As we enjoy what the Loyalsock offers, we must also respect its wild nature and be aware of its levels and flow. The steep hillsides and rocky terrain of the Endless Mountains can produce quick water run-off, leading to sudden stream level rises. Fortunately, there are resources available that you can use not only to determine its current level, but also expected levels over the coming days.

The National Weather Service’s Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center (MARFC) provides real-time stream flow data not only for major rivers such as the Susquehanna but also its tributaries, including Loyalsock Creek. There are stream gauges at Forksville, Hillsgrove, Barbour, and Loyalsockville that can be accessed at <https://water.weather.gov/>. In addition to providing stream levels, the MARFC provides a forecast of stream levels over the next three days for the creek at Loyalsockville.

Stream gauges are indicated by diamonds on the website map—clicking on them will produce a graph displaying stream levels over the past several days and the current level at that location. Gauges indicated by circles, in addition to past and current stream levels, also provides the MARFC forecast for levels over the coming three days.



Flood Impacts & Photos Collapse

If you notice any errors in the below information, please contact our Webmaster

28	Flood waters begin to reach the Route 973 Bridge in Loyalsockville.
20.5	Approximate level of the FEMA 0.2% Annual Chance Flood level (500-year flood).
19.8	Flood of record from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.
17	Approximate level of the FEMA 0.2% Annual Chance Flood level (500-year flood).
16	Approximate level of the FEMA 1% Annual Chance Flood level (100-year flood).
14	Numerous homes adjacent to the creek are affected by high water levels.
13	Approximate level of the FEMA 10% Annual Chance Flood level (10-year flood). Several homes and the Loyalsock Game Farm are affected by high water levels.
12	Several residences are affected by high water levels. Mill Street in Montoursville is flooded by Loyalsock Creek.
11	High water prevents access to several homes adjacent to the creek.
9	Residents living adjacent to the creek are encouraged to monitor water levels for additional rises. The driveways of several homes are affected by high water.
8	Water is on the bike path under Green Bridge at Montoursville.

Another piece of information on the MARFC website is the impact of various stream levels on the communities along the creek. Above is the information found at the website for the Loyalsockville stream gauge.

In addition to stream level data, the website also provides other information about the creek at that location, including historic flood crests, such as these for Loyalsockville:

- (1) 19.78 ft on 09/08/2011
- (2) 17.93 ft on 01/19/1996
- (3) 15.24 ft on 09/18/2004
- (4) 14.74 ft on 06/23/1972
- (5) 14.50 ft on 09/26/1975
- (6) 12.45 ft on 02/01/1982
- (7) 12.45 ft on 12/25/2020
- (8) 12.42 ft on 03/11/2011
- (9) 12.41 ft on 08/29/1988
- (10) 12.32 ft on 11/26/1950
- (11) 12.20 ft on 11/16/1926
- (12) 12.20 ft on 08/24/1933
- (13) 12.20 ft on 05/28/1946
- (14) 12.18 ft on 01/27/1996
- (15) 12.18 ft on 12/14/1983
- (16) 12.03 ft on 10/21/2016



Waterfalls

Off the Beaten Path...

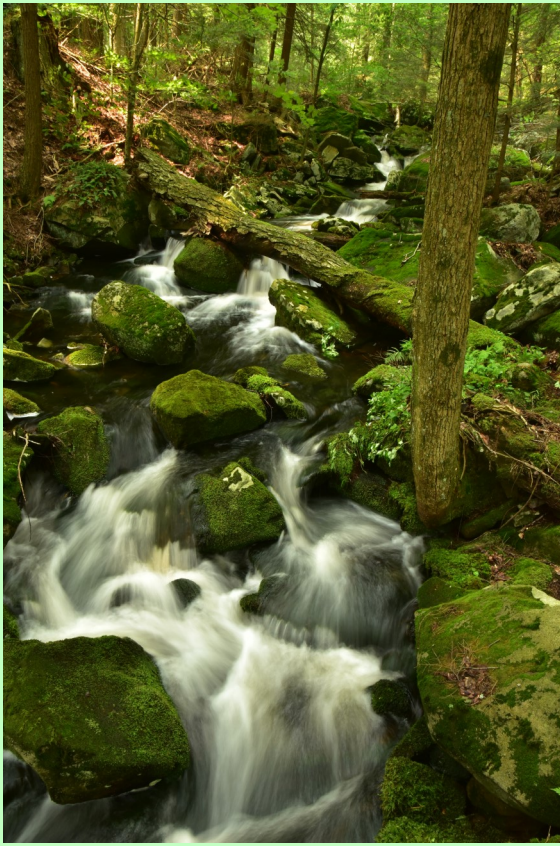
*On the left and on the cover:
The waterfalls along Tamarack Run.*

As the snow and ice melts and the spring rains fall, the streams in the endless mountains flow strong. This makes spring-time the ideal time to explore waterfalls —with even minor and seasonal streams flowing nicely and waterfalls and cascades suddenly appearing where otherwise there would be none. For this year’s tour of local waterfalls, we focus on some lesser-known, out-of-the-way cata-racts, starting with...



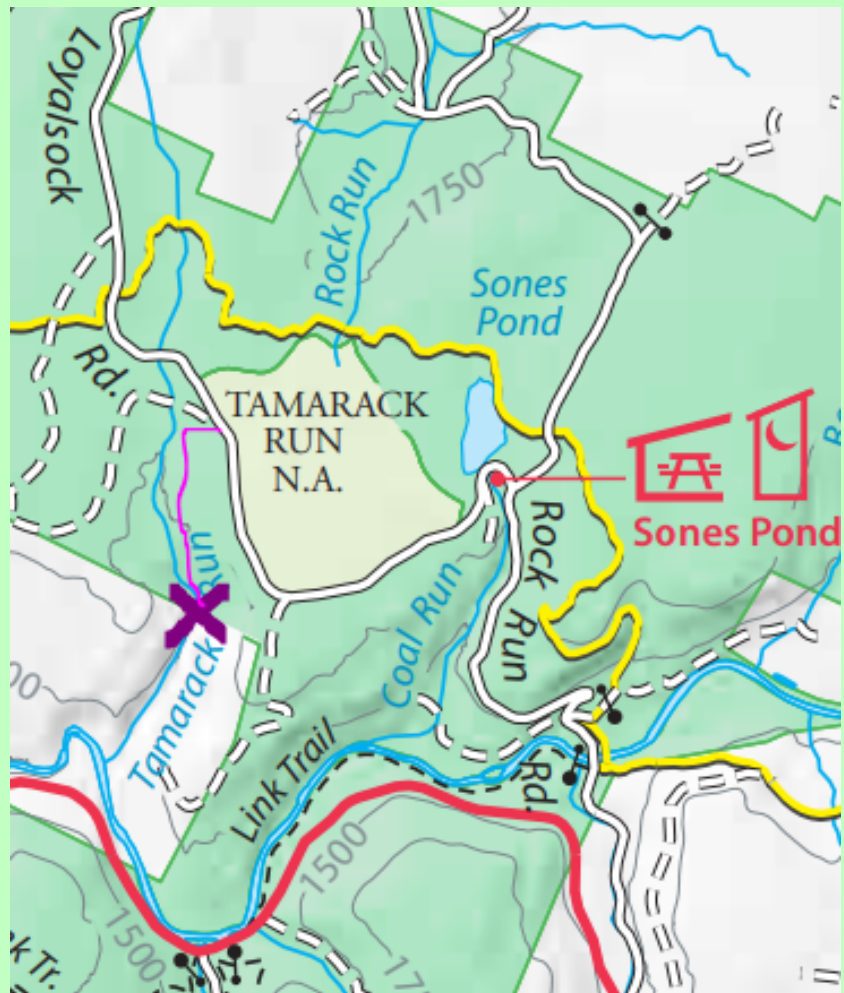
The Falls of Tamarack Run

Tamarack Run is a small stream that flows out of the Tamarack Natural Area atop the mountain above Worlds End. This is a low-flow stream, best seen after winter snow-melt or a good rain. Even in those instances, the stream is barely visible for much of its course, not really emerging in full until just above the falls. There is a large primary falls, 20-30 feet in height, then a series of smaller falls and cascades just below the larger fall.



Tamarack Run, above the falls as it flows out of the Tamarack Natural Area, is very scenic and worth exploring. The natural area is comprised of 234 acres near Sones Pond and is named for the tamarack tree. This boreal conifer wetland provides protection for the plants, amphibians, and reptiles that call this natural area home.

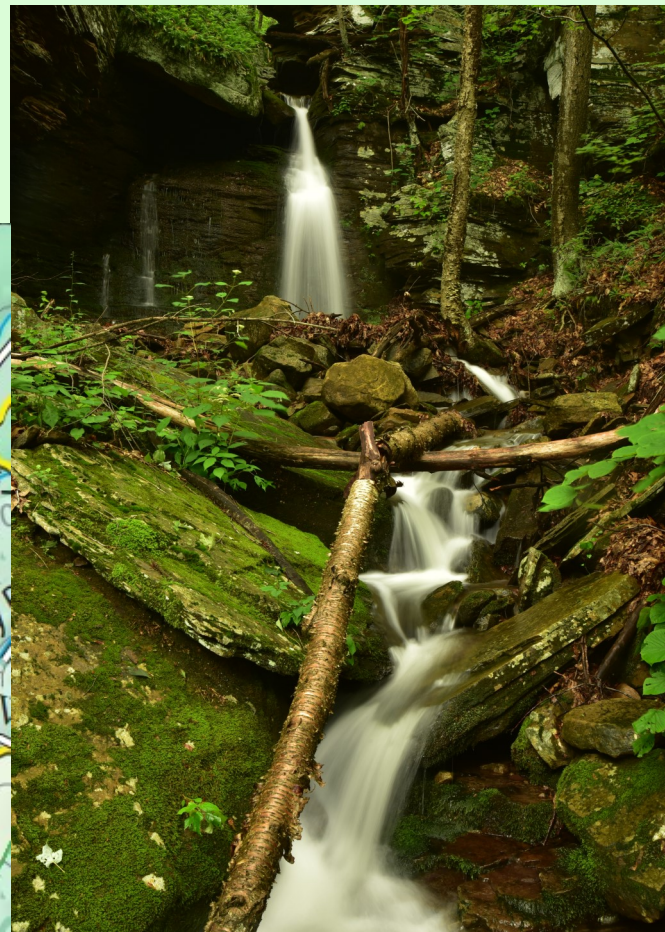
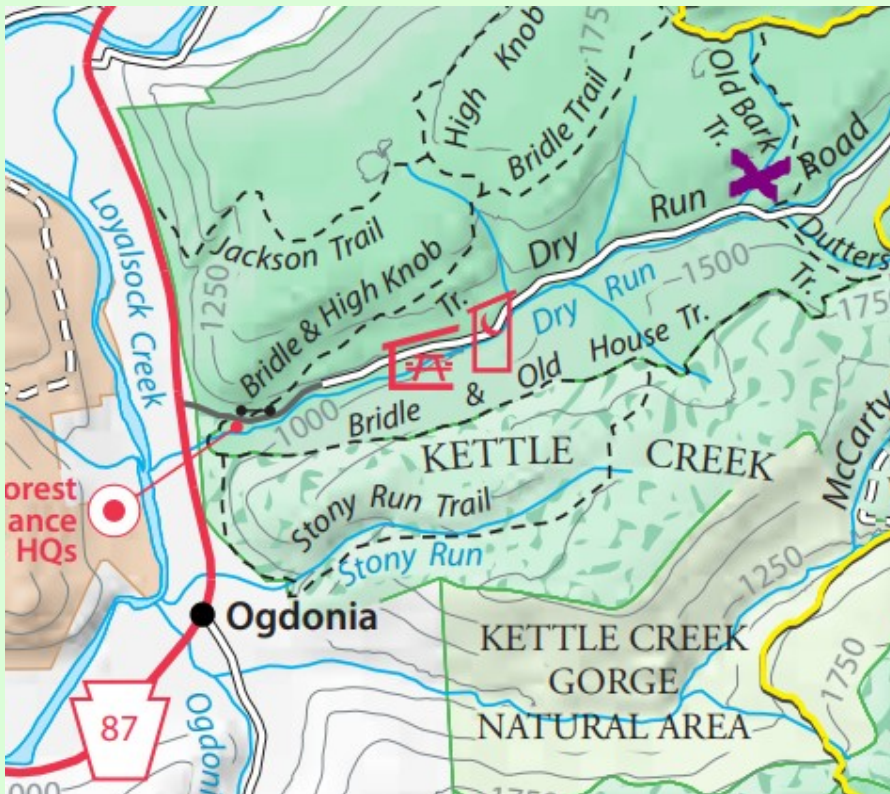
Starting on Route 154, take Rock Run Road, crossing Loyalsock Creek and going up the mountain. At the top of the mountain, at the intersection, take a left onto Loyalsock Road and drive past Sones Pond. Proceed on Loyalsock Road along the Tamarack Run Natural Area and look for camping spot 925 on the left. You will see near here a gated, grassy forest road that after a short hike will take you to Tamarack Run. Turn left downstream, and after a fairly level 15 -20 minute hike, you will come to the falls. You can also use the remains of an old logging road that is several yards to the left of the stream. See the purple X on the map for the location of the falls.



The Dry Run Gorge is home to many waterfalls, along the main stream and also along the many tributaries that flow down the steep hillsides. The most famous of these falls is Dry Run Falls that is easily seen from the road. The parking area for Dry Run Falls can also serve as the trailhead for the Old Bark Trail—which starts a little downhill from the parking area and on the other side of the road (look for the low, brown sign). However, you will not be able to see the falls if you stay on the trail—you instead need to bushwhack up the stream. However, it is a short bushwhack that will soon take you to a series of waterfalls and cascades. This is a low-flow stream, best viewed after snowmelt or rain.

The Falls along the Old Bark Trail

The falls and trails of the Dry Run Gorge, including the Old Bark Trail, can be reached via Dry Run Road off of Route 87 south of Hillsgrove. For the location of the falls off of the Old Bark Trail, see the purple X on the map below.



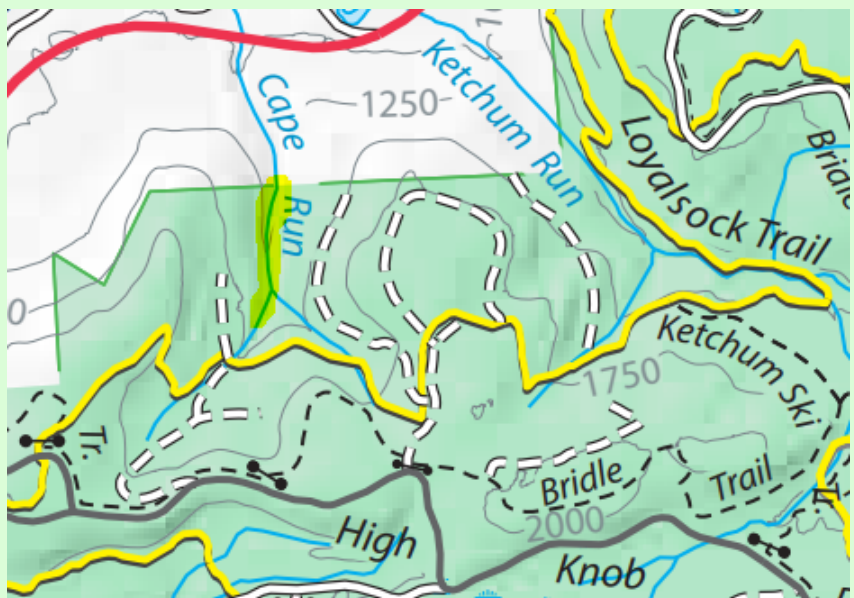


The Falls of Cape Run

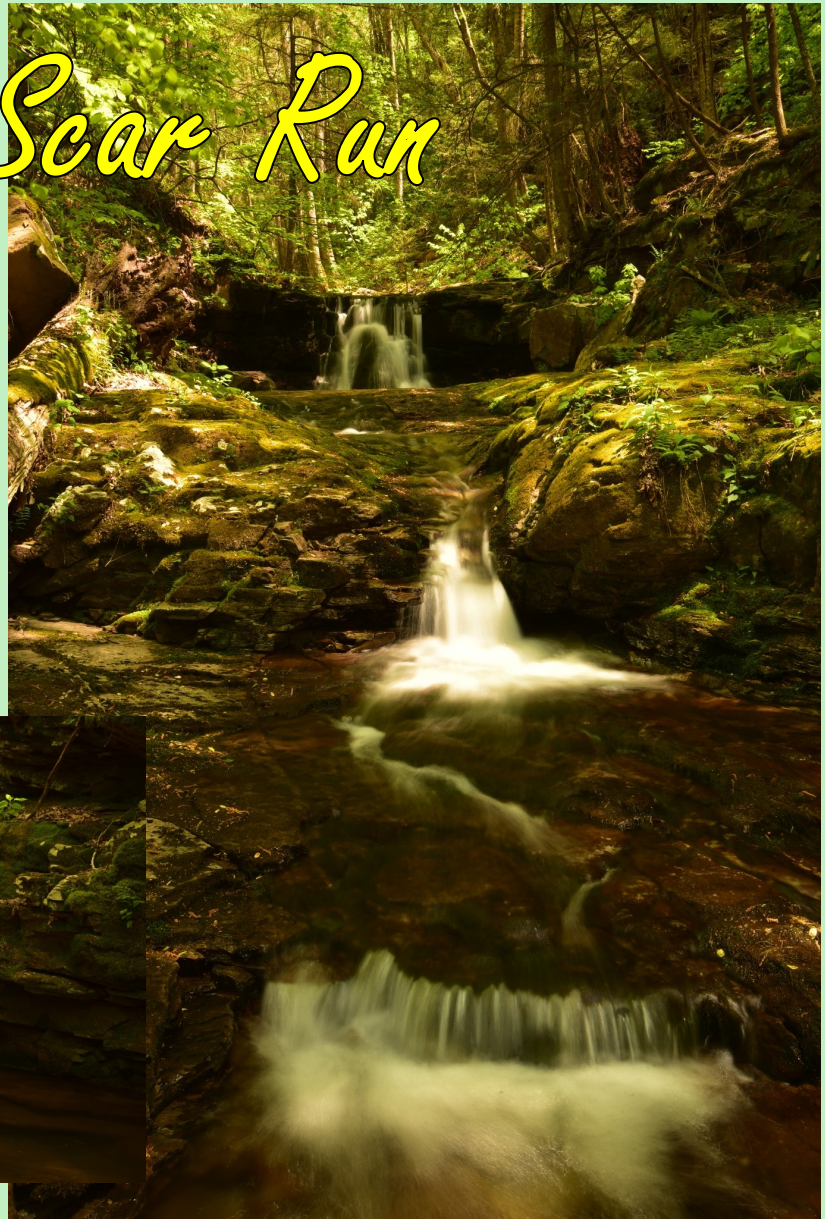
Cape Run is a remote mountain stream that flows down from High Knob into the Loyalsock south of Forksville. There is no trail along the stream, but the Loyalsock Trail crosses its upper forks—to see the waterfalls you must leave the Loyalsock Trail and bushwhack downstream. This is a challenging bushwhack, but if you look, there are the remains of old logging roads that can assist you, some of them will even take you down to stream level. Cape Run is a low-flow stream, so the waterfalls are best viewed after snowmelt or a heavy rain.



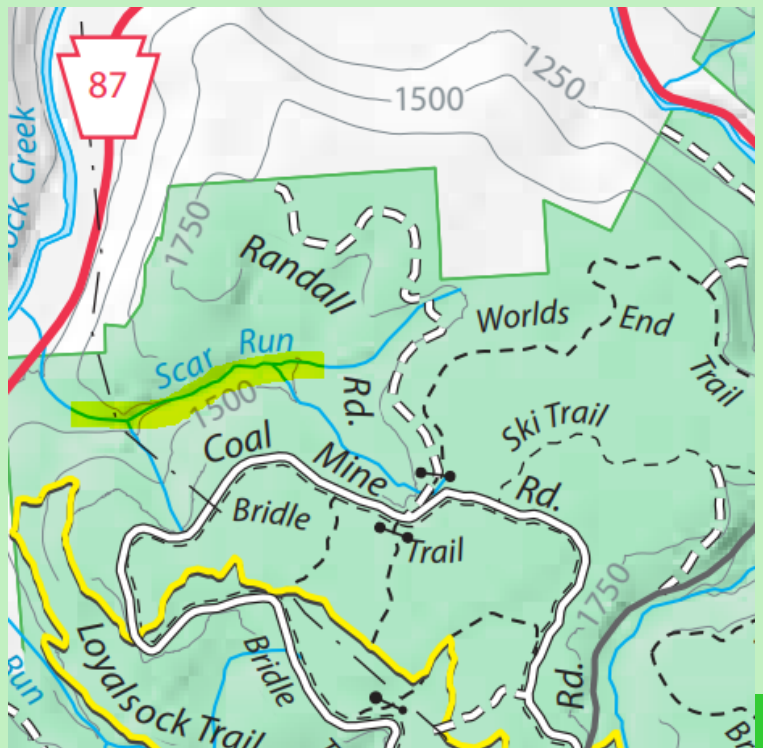
Most of the falls and cascades along Cape Run can be found in the section of the stream highlighted in yellow on the map to the right. The lower part of Cape Run is located on private land—so accessing the stream from Route 87 is not possible.

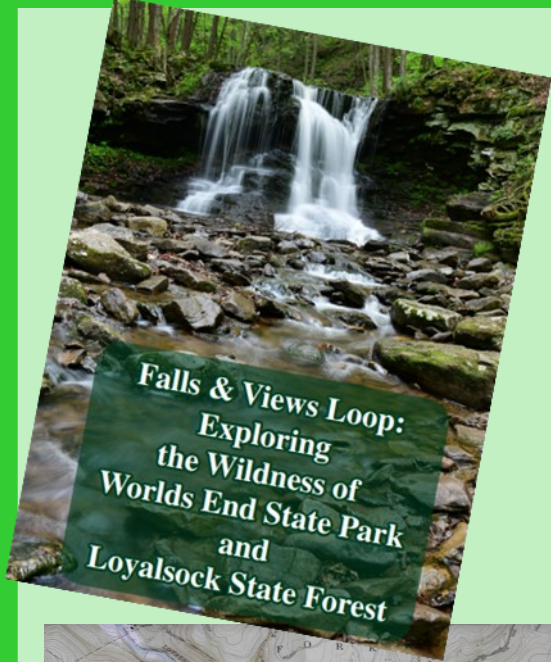


The Falls of Scar Run



Scar Run is a tributary that flows into Loyalsock Creek south of Forksville. There is no trail—to see the stream and its falls you have to bushwhack. This can be a difficult bushwhack with numerous stream crossings—but there are the remains of an old road that you can sometimes use to make the hike easier. This old road once went to the coal mines on top of the mountain, and if you look, you can still find lumps of coal along this road—spilled long ago from the carts hauling coal down stream. Most of the falls are located along the yellow highlighted part of the stream on the map to the right.





Find maps and guidance to the waterfalls mentioned in this edition of the THE VISTA—along with 90 other waterfalls and 40 views—in our newest and most comprehensive hiking guide that features Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest.*** This is a 70-page guide with 3 maps detailing over 77 miles of trails. Also available is the smaller ***Trails in and Around Worlds End State Park*** that features shorter hikes centered on the park and the forest immediately surrounding the park. These maps and guides are available from:



- [The Worlds End State Park Office](#)
- [The Sullivan Review](#)
(<https://thesullivanreview.com/maps/>)
- [Otto's Bookstore in Williamsport.](#)
- [Keystone Trails Association](#)
(<https://www.kta-hike.org/>)



Exploring Waterfalls...

- ◆ The terrain around waterfalls is often steep and wet. Sturdy, water-resistant footwear is essential – and hiking/trekking poles can help on the steep hillsides.
- ◆ The challenging mountainous terrain, especially the steep grades around waterfalls, requires a certain level of fitness and ability. Know and respect your limits – and use common sense. Going off-trail (bushwhacking) is not for everyone – if you do not feel comfortable doing it – don't do it.
- ◆ Know where you are and where you are going. Use guide books, maps and/or personal GPS. Do not rely on cell phone service – this is often not available in the park and the surrounding forest – especially in the deep ravines you find most waterfalls in.
- ◆ Let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.
- ◆ Make sure you time your outings so that you are out of the forest before sunset.
- ◆ Overnight camping is generally prohibited near waterfalls in the Loyalsock State Forest and Worlds End State Park.
- ◆ For tips on photographing waterfalls – and a list of waterfall guidebooks – see the Spring 2021 edition of THE VISTA available on our website - <https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/the-vista>.

Join the
**Friends of Worlds
End State Park** for **FREE!**

All we need is your email address so that we can email you the THE VISTA four times a year!

To get on our email list, see our website:

<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/mailling-list>

Of course we always welcome contributions! To contribute, see our website:

<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/donate>

If you prefer to donate by mail, please make checks payable to the PPF and include Friends of Worlds End on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Michelene Scott, Treasurer
Friends of Worlds End State Park
PO Box 62
Forksville, PA 18616



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PHOTO CREDITS: Cover – Tamarack Falls by Dan Mumford. Page 2: Dan Mumford; Page 3: Jane Swift; Pages 12-17: Dan Mumford. Page 18: Falls on Old Bark Trail by Dan Mumford.