

The Vista

WATERFALLS
Of the
Rock Run Valley



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

82 Cabin Bridge Road

P.O. Box 62

Forksville Pa 18616

570-924-3287

friendsofworldsendsp@gmail.com

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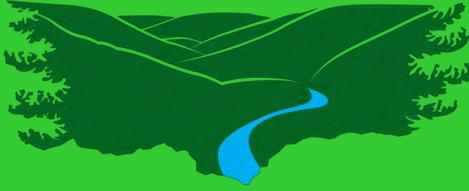
www.friendsofworldsendsp.org

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." – Charles Dickens

After a long, cold, snowy winter—we are all ready for spring—and we celebrate the coming season with our annual tour of local **WATERFALLS**. With the melting snow and spring rains recharging the mountain streams, this is the time of year to view the beautiful cascades and falls across the Endless Mountains—see starting on page 11. For more about another favorite celebration of spring— **FISHING** – see page 9. Learn about another spring activity, tapping trees and turning sap into **MAPLE SYRUP**— see page 8. And for those that celebrate the night sky in any season, there is exciting news for stargazers and astronomers—a new **DARK SKY VIEWING AREA** near High Knob Overlook—see starting on page 5.

There is also important news for those that volunteer at state parks and forests—a new **DCNR VOLUNTEER WEBSITE** portal. All volunteers should access this new portal to register—even if you registered on their previous portal—see page 3.

Enjoy the spring—and we hope to see you at Worlds End!



New DCNR Volunteer Website

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has announced that its new volunteer management system is now live! A Conservation Volunteer is someone who cares about protecting and enhancing our beautiful natural resources. People of all ages can participate in the program, which matches interests and abilities with appropriate outdoor projects. You can join as a group or an individual— and for a few hours to a lifetime commitment, the choice is yours.

To volunteer, you need to create a profile in the new system, even if you were registered on DCNR's previous volunteer website (accounts and information will not transfer to the new volunteer site from the previous site, so creating a new profile is required).

WHAT TO DO:

Visit the new Conservation Volunteer site (<https://dcnrvolunteers.pa.gov/>) and check out the Conservation Volunteer FAQs (<https://dcnrvolunteers.pa.gov/volunteer-faq/>). Create your new volunteer profile and agree to the Conservation Volunteer agreement terms.

Download "DCNR Quick Start Guide for Volunteers": <https://maestro.pa.gov/list/attachment/download/DCNR%20Quick%20Start%20Guide%20for%20Volunteers.pdf?j=251231F&a=5p3mqteziwwdb8jzuo1p7tn9c21qxr4mx9floaik3x1utmzmax>

Once you have signed up, become a "Fan" of your favorite state park or forest locations. When you become a Fan, you will receive notifications whenever a new volunteer opportunity is posted.

To become a Fan of Worlds End State Park: <https://dcnrvolunteers.pa.gov/agency/detail/?>

SIGN UP LOGIN HELP CALENDAR

DCNR

Ricketts Glen State Park

400 Market St View larger map

West Fairview Harrisburg The National Civil War Museum

Get Involved, Make a Difference.

VOLUNTEER NOW

CHAMBERS HILL

Volunteer FAQs Your Guide to Getting Started

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION



DCNR Trail of the Year 2026 - Pine Creek Rail Trail

The Pine Creek Rail Trail, a 62-mile scenic journey through the Appalachian Mountains in Lycoming and Tioga counties, has been named Pennsylvania's 2026 Trail of the Year by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

"We are proud to name the Pine Creek Rail Trail as Pennsylvania's 2026 Trail of the Year and to honor the rich history, culture, and recreational opportunities that make this trail a destination for visitors from around the world," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn.

The Trail traces a historic corridor first used by the Iroquois Nation and later developed as a railroad in the late 19th century. After rail service ended in 1988, the corridor was transformed into a 62-mile non-motorized trail completed between 1995 and 2007, stretching from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro Junction. Today, the nationally recognized trail attracts more than 44,000 users annually.



Loyalsock Canyon Vista at Spring Time

Astronomy at High Knob
Loyalsock State Forest



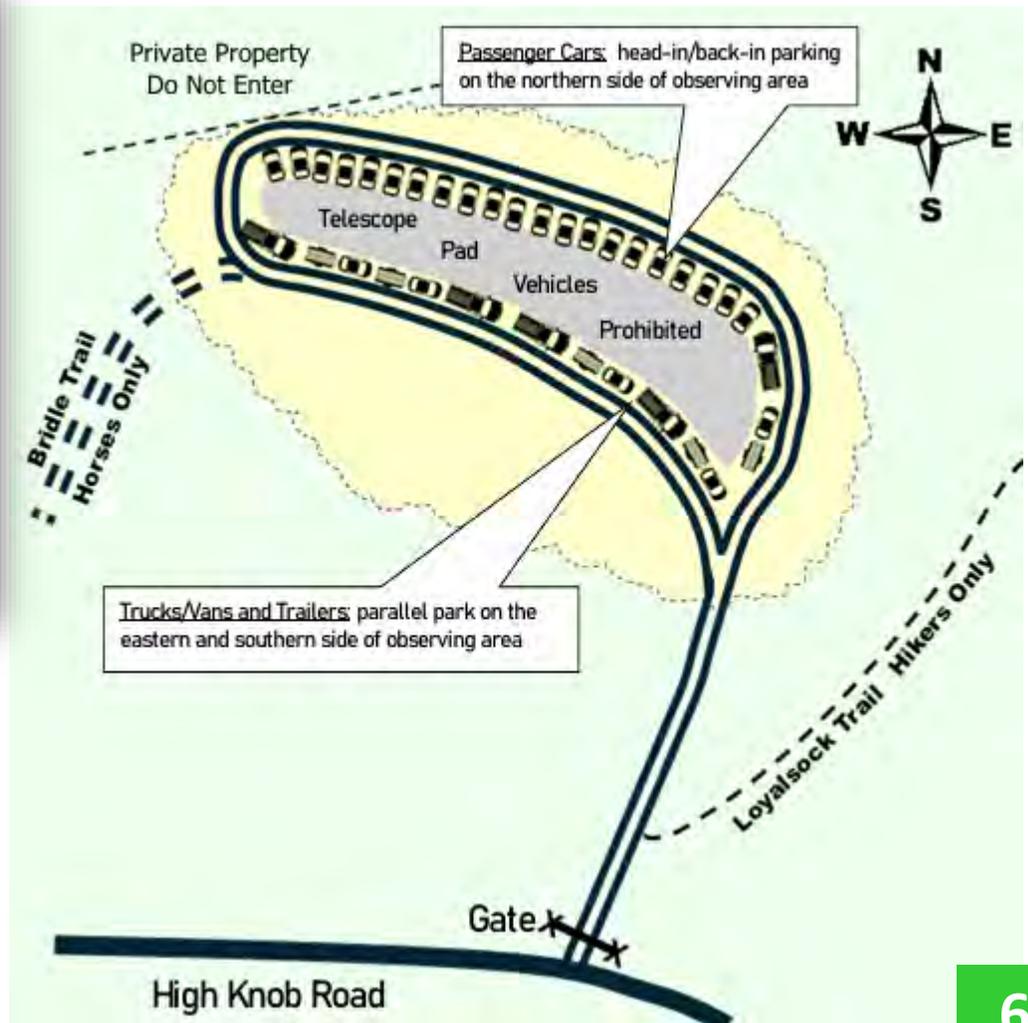
New
**High Knob
Astronomy Area!**

New High Knob Astronomy Area

The Loyalsock State Forest has announced the creation of a new dark sky destination—the High Knob Astronomy Area! This observation area is located along the loop once you pass the High Knob Overlook (see map below). For hobby astronomers who have advanced equipment that needs protection from stray light, this new site offers restricted access in an area sheltered from headlights. The site can accommodate about 40 vehicles including space for trucks with trailers and has ample room for each telescope. Astronomers can obtain a free vehicle permit from the district office to utilize the site ((570) 946-4049 or fd20@pa.gov). The permit includes the code that is needed to open the access gate. Walk-in visitors without equipment are also welcome. This site has special regulations to protect the site, its users and their equipment, and to preserve the quality of the experience. The rules and a map are available on the state forest’s website (elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=10546478&DocName=High Knob Astronomy Area.pdf). The nearby High Knob Overlook remains available to stargazers with its vast views of the southern and western skies.



The viewing area is a Class 3 Rural Sky on the Bortle Scale, meaning that astronomers can expect the Milky Way to be visible—as seen above and on the previous page.



RICKETTS GLEN CAMPGROUND TO CLOSE LATER THIS YEAR:

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has announced that the campground at Ricketts Glen State Park will be closed beginning September 8, 2026, through spring 2028 to allow for significant upgrades to the shower house facilities. DCNR is suggesting a variety of nearby parks and campgrounds that may serve as alternatives during this period—including Worlds End! Suggested alternate locations include:

- Worlds End State Park
- Frances Slocum State Park
- Promised Land State Park



B Reynolds Falls at Ricketts Glen State Park



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FRIENDS AT WORK—NEW CORNHOLE COURT!

The Friends have purchased four Cornhole boards—that the park’s hard-working staff have installed as a new Cornhole Court in the picnic grove across Route 154 from the Park Office. Players can borrow the red and blue beanbags from the Park Office during normal business hours.



The Cornhole Court is the old foundation of the LT Pavilion before it was moved to its current location along Cabin Bridge Road.



Another sign of spring at Worlds End—the tapping of the park’s maple trees to create maple syrup! In early spring, the sap starts flowing in the tree, preparing the maples for the coming display of foliage. The park’s Environmental Educator, Jane Swift, oversees the annual collecting of the sap by tapping trees. The sap, which is approximately 2% sugar, is boiled and becomes syrup at around 219 degrees (7 degrees above the boiling point of water) and is 66% sugar.



On the left: Boiling the sap to produce syrup. It takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup!

Above and Below: Maple trees in the day-use area being tapped.

Below: Worlds End Maple Syrup has won awards from DCNR in the past—Jane Swift, the park’s Environmental Educator, holds aloft the award trophy in 2022.



Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season - April 4

Get your license:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/fishandboat/fishing/buy-fishing-license-permit>

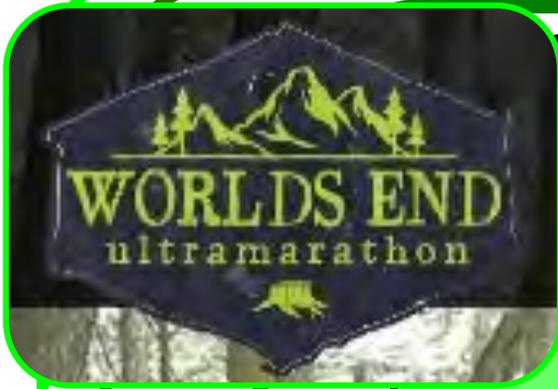
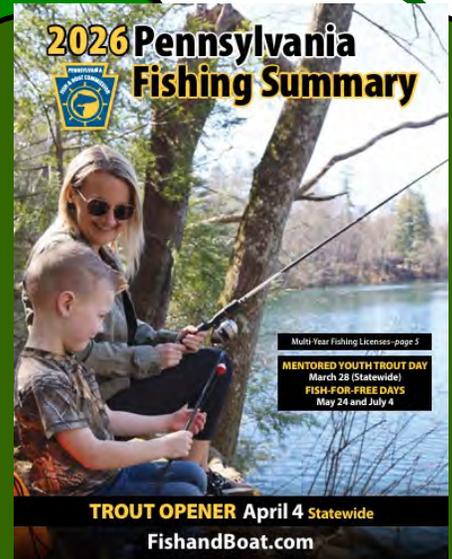
The 2026 PA Fishing Summary:

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/fishandboat/documents/fishing/regulations/summarybook.pdf>

Stocking Schedules:

<https://fbweb.pa.gov/TroutStocking>

The Loop A campground at Worlds End opens on March 27 and is available for fishermen who need a place to stay for the night(s).



WORLDS END ULTRAMARATHON MAY 30!

One of the toughest, most scenic trail races in the country returns to Worlds End State Park and the Loyalsock State Forest on Saturday May 30. 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 overall elevation is gain over 12,000 feet! 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/>



worlds end ultramarathon
50k | 100k



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/worldsendultra>

In 2025, the winning time for the 100K race was 11:24:06.59 and for the 50K race was 5:11:38.00!

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.



DON'T FORGET THE KINDLING OR FIRESTARTER STICKS!

Campers sometimes forget that it takes more than just the firewood to get a good fire going. Don't forget to bring dry small branches and twigs—you can sometimes scavenge around your campsite to find some—but sometimes the camping area is picked pretty clean. You can also buy commercial firestarter sticks or bricks at most home, outdoors, or grocery stores.



"There is a kind of supernatural beauty in these mountainous prospects which charms both the senses and the minds into a forgetfulness of one-self." - Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Columbine along Cold Run Road



Purple Trillium along Cold Run Trail

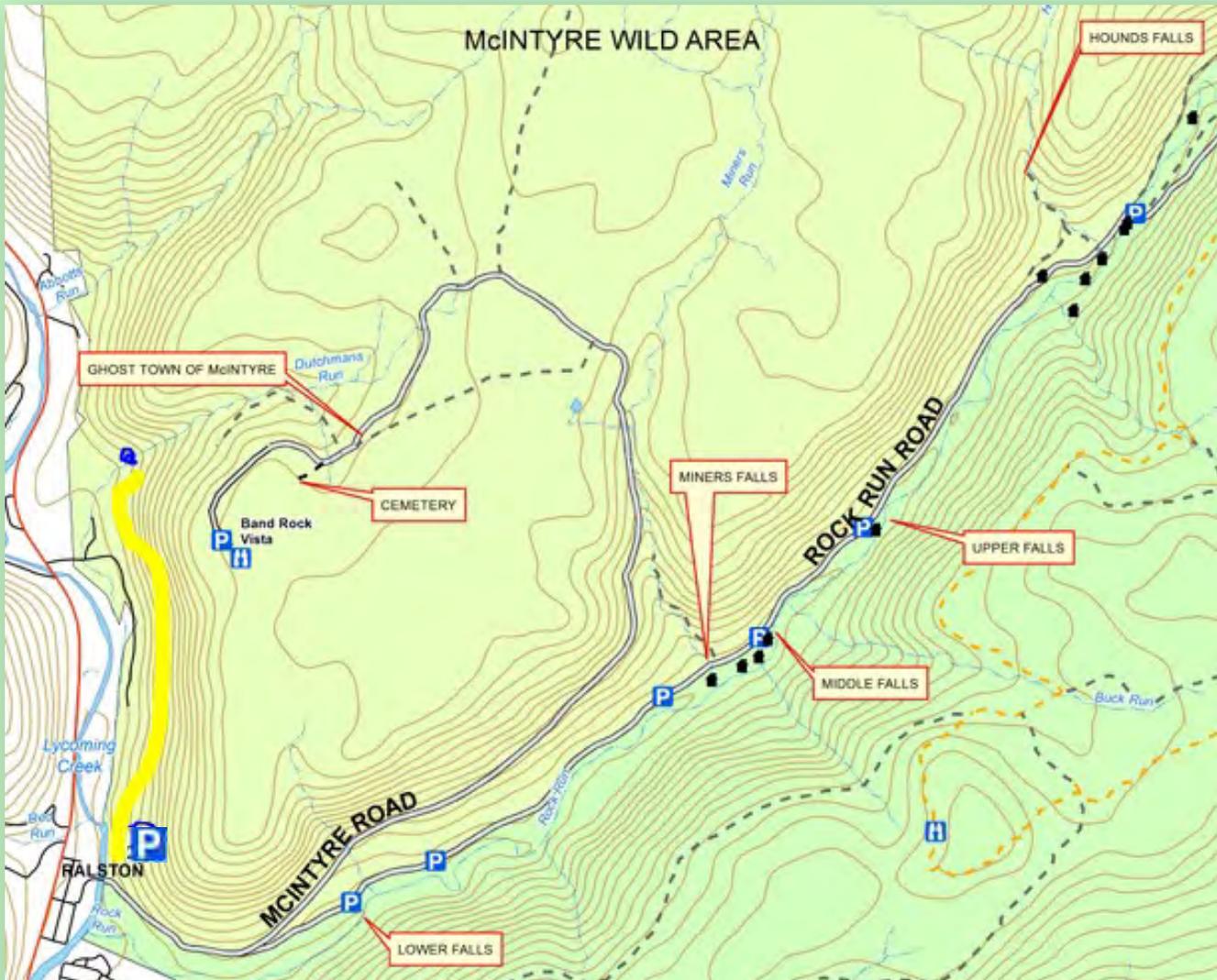


View from Loyalsock Canyon Vista

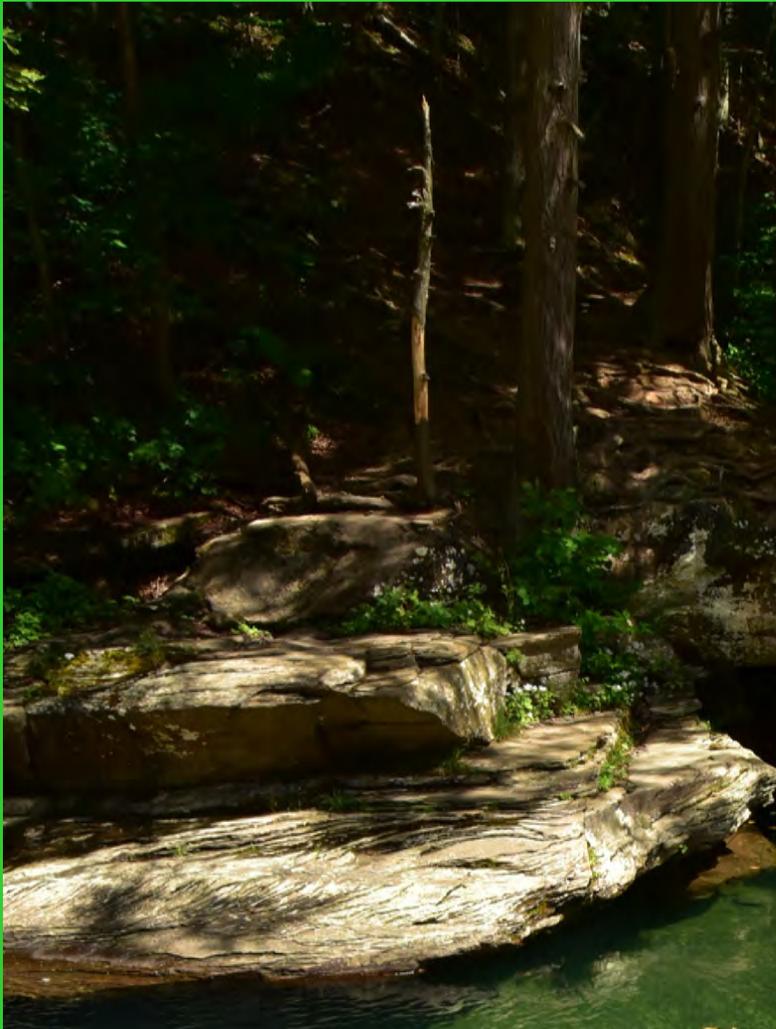
Waterfalls of the Rock Run Valley

The Middle Falls on Rock Run

In the western reaches of the Loyalsock State Forest lies what many consider to be the prettiest stream in Pennsylvania...Rock Run. “Rock Run” is a common stream name across the Commonwealth —with at least three different streams bearing this title in the Loyalsock State Forest alone. But there is nothing common about the Rock Run that enters Lycoming Creek at the little village of Ralston along route 14 in northern Lycoming County. Rock Run has carved itself deep into the bedrock along its course, creating waterfalls, cascades and deep plunge pools that glow an intense emerald green when hit by the sunlight. What's more, it has several tributaries that flow into it from the north that feature their own cascades and waterfalls, including Miners Run and Hounds Run. And also just to the north of the stream is the McIntyre Wild Area, featuring waterfall-laden streams such as Dutchman’s Run. These can all be accessed via Rock Run Road, a graveled state forest road that starts at the village of Ralston. A brochure and map of the valley are available on DCNR’s website:



elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=2858637&DocName=Rock Run - Forestry Trail Guide 8-5x14.pdf



The Upper Falls on Rock Run



Rock Run carves its way into the rock along much of its course.



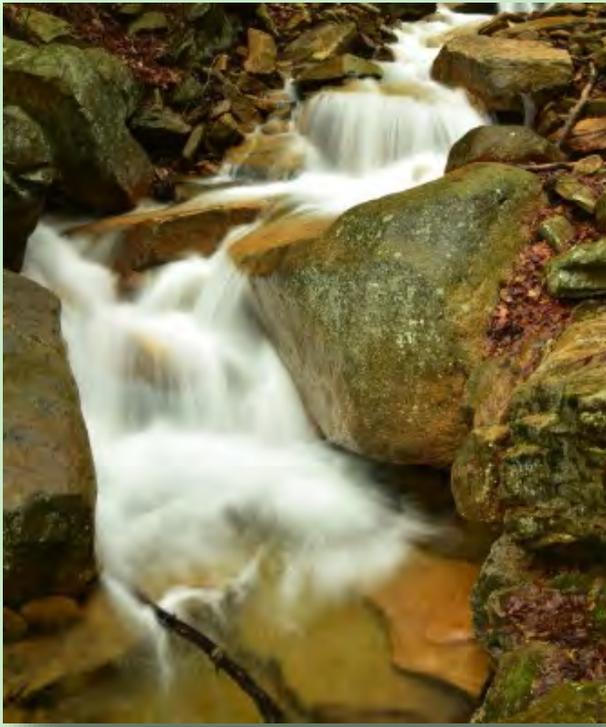
Glowing emerald plunge pools greet visitors at several locations along Rock Run.

Waterfalls of Dutchmans Run



At Ralston, right after you cross Lycoming Creek on Rock Run Road, you will see on the left a parking area that you can use to access Dutchmans Run and the McIntyre Wild Area. At the end of the parking lot you will see an unblazed trail—really an old abandoned railroad line. Hike back this trail and the first stream you will come to is Dutchmans Run (see the yellow line on the map on page 11). Do not cross the stream—instead turn right and hike up along the stream and you will soon see the main falls peaking at you through the forest —Dutchmans Run Falls (above and on the cover). There are additional falls and cascades above the main falls—but there is no trail and seeing these requires bushwhacking and steep ascents.

On the left middle and bottom: Some of the upper falls on Dutchmans Run. These falls are accessible only by off-trail bushwhacking ascending steep mountain grades.

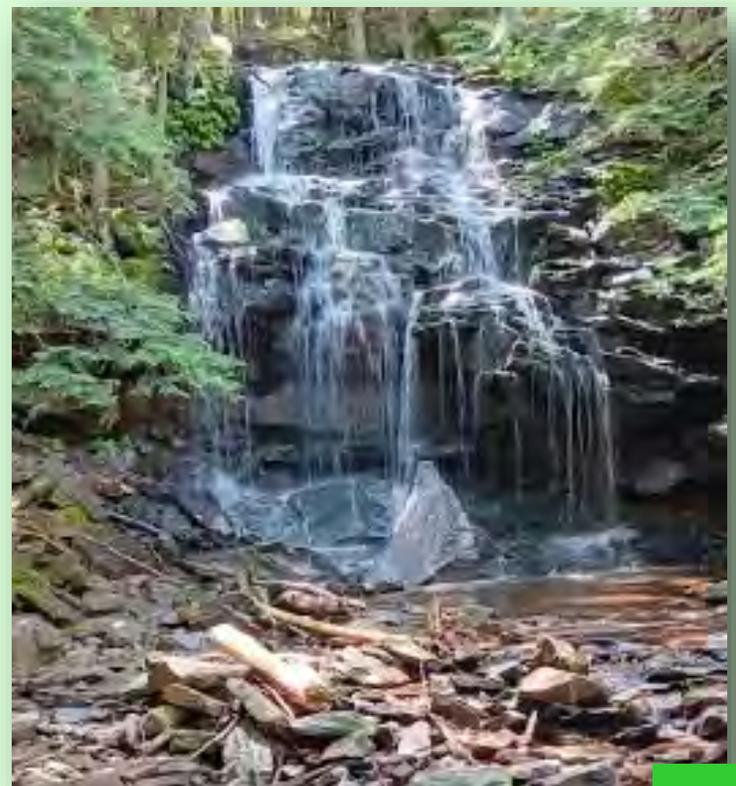


If you visit Dutchmans Run, you may notice an orange-tint to some of the rocks lining the stream. This is a legacy of coal mining that took place on top of the mountain. This orange tint is caused by acid mine drainage. Iron-sulfide minerals in exposed rock reacts with water and air to form sulfuric acid and iron oxide (rust). You may also notice lumps of coal laying scattered about. You can also see the cables and other rusting equipment that are the remains of an overhead cable bucket lift that transported coal from on top of the mountain to the valley floor and the railroad whose path you took to hike back to these falls.

The McIntyre Wild Area is 7,500 acres and the top of the mountain was the site of a 19th century coal-mining town and contains the ruins of its buildings and facilities. The Band Rock Vista at the top of the mountain provides a view of the Lycoming Creek Valley and apparently got its name from the bands that would play music at this site for the entertainment of the surrounding community. Please note that the McIntyre Road to the top of the mountain is often suitable only for high-clearance vehicles—especially in wet conditions. See more information, including a map, on the state forest’s website: [elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3841555&DocName=FD20 Loyalsock McIntyre Wild Area](http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3841555&DocName=FD20%20Loyalsock%20McIntyre%20Wild%20Area)

“DUTCHMAN FALLS” CONFUSION?

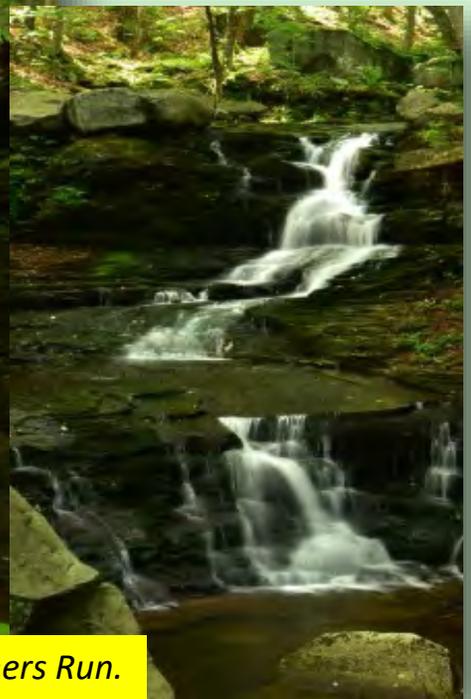
The falls described above are along Dutchmans Run... with an “s”. But there is also a “Dutchman Run” in the Loyalsock State Forest... with a well-known falls along that stream called “Dutchman Falls.” This stream and falls is at the eastern trail head of the Loyalsock Trail along route 220 between Laporte and Dushore in Sullivan County—pictured on the right. Additional information, including a map showing where to find this falls, is on the state forest’s website: [elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=2858641&DocName=Haystacks - Forestry Trail Guide 8-5x14.pdf](http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=2858641&DocName=Haystacks%20-%20Forestry%20Trail%20Guide%208-5x14.pdf)



Waterfalls of Miners Run



Miners Run is one of the waterfall-laden tributaries that flow into Rock Run from the north. There is a small parking area where Rock Run Road crosses Miners Run. From this parking area, the main falls of Miners Run (photo on the left) is easily reached via a short walk up stream. There is also a falls just below the bridge that is in easy reach. However, the remaining six or so waterfalls on this stream are more difficult to access. There is no blazed trail, so you have to bushwhack and/or use the informal unblazed trails you may come across here and there. Fortunately, it is not a long hike, with most of the falls within a half mile or so of the parking area. This stream also features large boulders that look like they have been tossed around at every imaginable angle.



Some of the falls above the main falls on Miners Run.



Another stream flowing into the upper part of Rock Run from the north is Hounds Run. There is no blazed trail—you have to bushwhack up the stream from Rock Run Road. You will pass a number of smaller falls and cascades before, in a half mile or so, you will come to Hounds Run Falls, an impressive 40-50 feet tall drop. Hounds Run is a relatively low-flow stream, that is best seen after springtime snow melt or rainfall.

Below: one of the smaller cascades you will see as you hike up stream to towards the main falls.

Waterfalls of Hounds Run



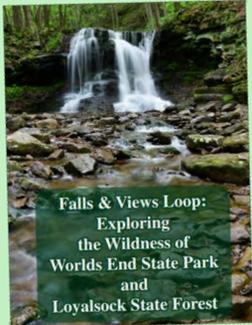
Want More Waterfalls!?

Find maps and guidance to more than 90 waterfalls and 40 views—in our 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/>)



Waterfall Wisdom...

- ◆ 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. Bushwhacks should only be undertaken if you have the equipment, knowledge, and experience to do so.
- ◆ Know where you are and where you are going. Even with a guide book and a GPS unit, you should be proficient with map and compass. Do not rely on cell phone service – this is often not available in the park and the surrounding forest – especially in deep ravines you find most waterfalls. Let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.
- ◆ Overnight camping is generally prohibited near waterfalls in the Loyalsock State Forest and Worlds End State Park.
- ◆ For tips on photographing waterfalls – see the Spring 2021 edition of THE VISTA available on our website - <https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/the-vista>.
- ◆ *“There are so many hidden dangers with waterfalls. What seems logical can be wrong. It is always best to be paranoid and extremely cautious. If you are having a difficult time accessing a waterfall, sometimes it is best to retreat and come back another day.”* - Catskill Mountaineer's website.

How to Read Trail Markers for Hiking in Pennsylvania

Trails in Pennsylvania may be marked in a variety of ways. Knowing the basics can improve your enjoyment of a trail experience.

Posts

These are perhaps the easiest hiking markers to see. Posts are erected with the trail name or next destination marked, usually with an arrow. Posts may be used to indicate distance traveled (generally called trail mile markers) or distance to a destination, or to show direction at an intersection.

Affixed Markers Hiking Signs

Some trails have metal signs affixed to trees which may or may not contain the trail name.

Other metal markers that you might encounter in Pennsylvania state parks or forests are boundary markers, indicating the edge of a park or forest. The marker will be on the outside edge of the property.

Paint

Blazes may be used to mark direction on a trail, indicate the type of trail, or could be used to indicate the trail on which you travel. In the latter case, most colors are coordinated to the map. For example, at Boyd Big Tree Preserve, the Janey Trail is red.

There are several methods used, but perhaps the most common is to use a small dab or rectangle of colored paint.

Color patterns or formations have meaning.

Straight: A single rectangle of paint or single marker means you are on the trail. Go straight.

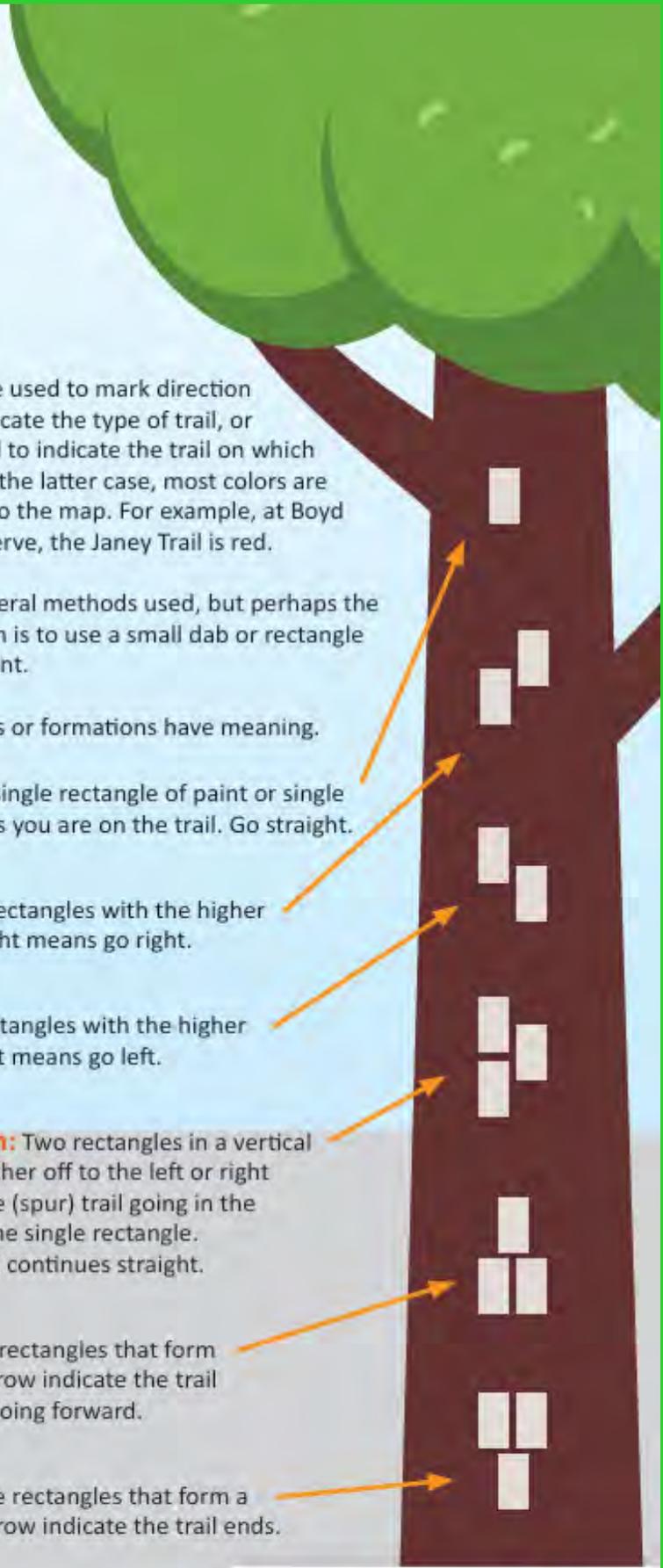
Right: Two rectangles with the higher one to the right means go right.

Left: Two rectangles with the higher one to the left means go left.

Intersection: Two rectangles in a vertical line with another off to the left or right indicate a side (spur) trail going in the direction of the single rectangle. The main trail continues straight.

Start: Three rectangles that form an upward arrow indicate the trail starts and is going forward.

Finish: Three rectangles that form a downward arrow indicate the trail ends.



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 – Dutchmans Run Falls by Dan Mumford. Page 2: Dan Mumford; Pages 4-6: Dan Mumford; Page 8: Jane Swift. Pages 10-14: Dan Mumford. Page 15: Dave Kowalewski, Dan Mumford; Pages 16 - 17: Dan Mumford. Page 20: Dutchmans Run Falls by Dan Mumford.