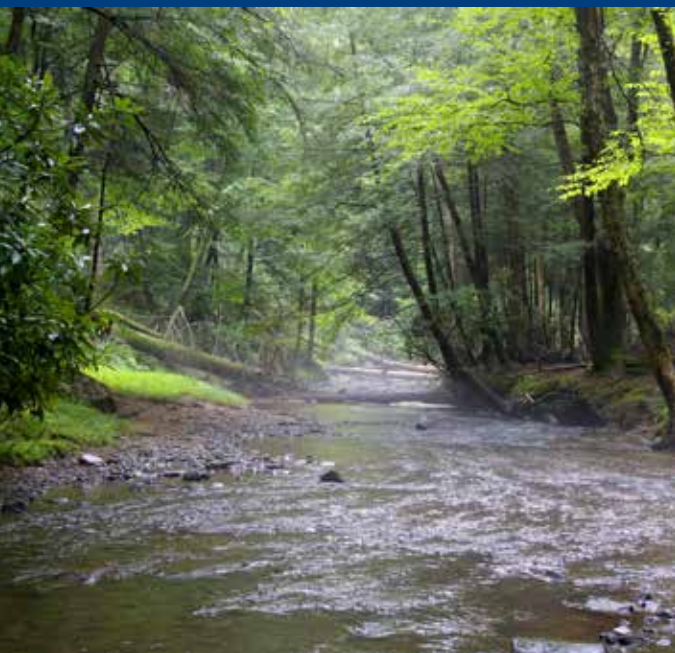


A Trail Information Guide for Clarion River Lands



Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources



Cook Forest State Park
100 Route 36
P.O. Box 120
Cooksburg, PA 16217
814-744-8407
CookForestSP@pa.gov
www.pa.gov/state-parks



Multi-use Trails

Multi-use trails are blazed red and open to hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding as designated. Please be aware and courteous of others.

Bessie Dewey Trail: 1.0 mile
More difficult | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes

Accessed from Boiler Trail, the lower elevation of this trail runs along the beautiful Maxwell Run, a secluded conifer sheltered stream with scattered small waterfalls. The 450ft elevation climb out of the valley loops back onto itself in a wooded hilltop before heading back down.

Blyson Loop Trail: 2.7 miles
More difficult | Loop trail | Red blazes

Accessed from the parking lot at the end of Old State Road, this trail is probably the most scenic of all the Clarion River Lands trails. Blyson Run is scattered with small waterfalls at lower elevations and a secluded hemlock and white pine forest. From a low elevation, the forest changes from nearly 200-year-old trees to a younger forest at the hilltop where impressive conglomerate rock formations can be found. Note: Horse trailers are not recommended on Old State Road.

Boiler Trail: 2.0 miles
More difficult | Connector trail | Red blazes

Access this trail via the parking lot at Hindman Road. It follows a steep old switchback road to the bank of the Clarion River, where it joins the Bessie Dewey Trail near Maxwell Run. An old boiler left near the Clarion River can be seen along the trail.

Callihan Trail: 1.3 miles
More difficult | Connector trail | Red blazes

This trail runs along Callihan Run as it connects the Kaufman Loop Trail to the Picture Rock Crossing. River crossings possess inherent danger. All users are advised to use caution if crossing the river.



River otter



Finkbinder Connector: 0.5 mile
More difficult | Connector Trail | Red blazes

This trail connects the Upper and Lower Finkbinder trails through impressive second growth hardwood forest. Look for bald eagles and reptiles while hiking on the trail.

Highland Loop Trail: 1.0 mile
More difficult | Loop trail | Red blazes

This trail runs from the Kaufman Trail near the upper parking lot on Highland Drive and winds through a mix of hardwood trees toward the Clarion River.

Kaufman Trail: 1.4 miles
Easiest | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes

This relatively flat trail follows an old logging road through open hardwood forest and continues past the Short Trail to a small loop at an old power line right of way. Kaufman Trail can be accessed from the upper parking area off Highland Drive.

Kaufman Loop Trail: 0.6 mile
Easiest | Connector trail | Red blazes

This relatively flat trail uses old logging roads to wind its way through open hardwood forest connecting to the Kaufman and Short trails.

Lower Loop Finkbinder Trail: 2.3 miles
More difficult | Loop trail | Red blazes

Containing several fairly steep sections, this trail uses old logging roads and single-track trails to traverse open forest along the ridgeline.

Lower Round Top Trail: 2.0 miles
Most difficult | Out-and-back trail | Yellow/red blazes

Following the Clarion River, this trail has varied terrain. It connects to Blyson Loop and Picture Rock trails. Equestrian use is prohibited on the steep section of trail from the Lower Round Top Trail parking lot to Picture Rock Trail.

Mill Creek Loop Trail: 1.5 miles
More difficult | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes

This trail links a parking area on Millcreek Drive with the Blyson Loop Trail via wide, mostly flat, old logging roads through open hardwoods of oaks, maples, and black cherries.

Picture Rock Trail: 1.1 miles
More difficult | Out-and-back trail | Red blazes

This trail connects Hindman Road parking lot to the Picture Rock Crossing over the Clarion River. On the other side of the river, look for the namesake large, flat rock where many equestrian riders pose for the camera.

Rim Trail: 0.8 mile
More difficult | Connector trail | Red blazes

This trail uses an old logging road to unite the Kaufman and Highland Loop trails, offering beautiful views of the Clarion River Valley as it meanders along the river's hillside.

Short Trail: 0.1 mile
Easiest | Connector trail | Red blazes

This single-track trail connects the Kaufman, Kaufman Loop, and Callihan trails.

Slater's Crossing: 0.2 mile
More difficult | Connector trail | Red blazes

This trail joins the Highland and Finkbinder trails via a river ford at Slater's Crossing. River crossings possess inherent danger. All users are advised to use caution if crossing the river.

Upper Loop Finkbinder Trail: 2.5 miles
More difficult | Loop trail | Red blazes

Access from Lower Loop Finkbinder Trail or Finkbinder Connector, this loop uses old logging roads and single-track trails to cross the ridgeline and associated steep slopes.

Valley of the Bears Trail: 5.2 miles
More difficult | Connector trail with loops | Blue/red blazes

This trail contains two loops and follows the NCT in two sections as it meanders up and down the Clarion River Valley from Shadetree Lane to the Highland Loop Trail. The 0.8-mile lower loop is closer to Highland Loop Trail, while the upper loop near Thompson Hill is 1.8 miles.

Hiking Only Trails

North Country National Scenic Trail:
12 miles in the park | More difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail | Blue blazes
Trailhead Amenities: backpacking shelter, picnic tables, modern restrooms at Log Cabin Environmental Learning Classroom (ELC)
The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) overlaps several segments of trails as it passes through Cook Forest State Park. The NCT is America's longest National Scenic Trail at 4,600 miles, running from New York to North Dakota. Through Pennsylvania, 180 miles of the NCT connects four Pennsylvania state parks.



Red eft

Access for People with Disabilities

 This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible for people with disabilities. This publication text is available in alternative formats.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee to summon medical, fire, or safety professionals.

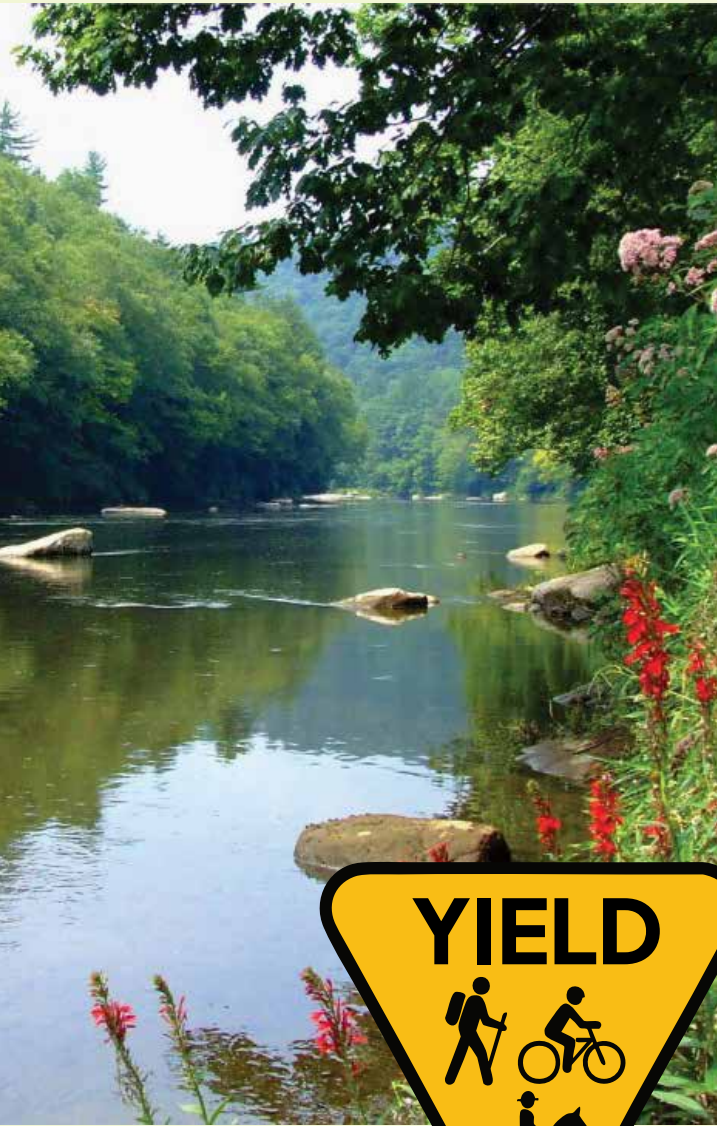
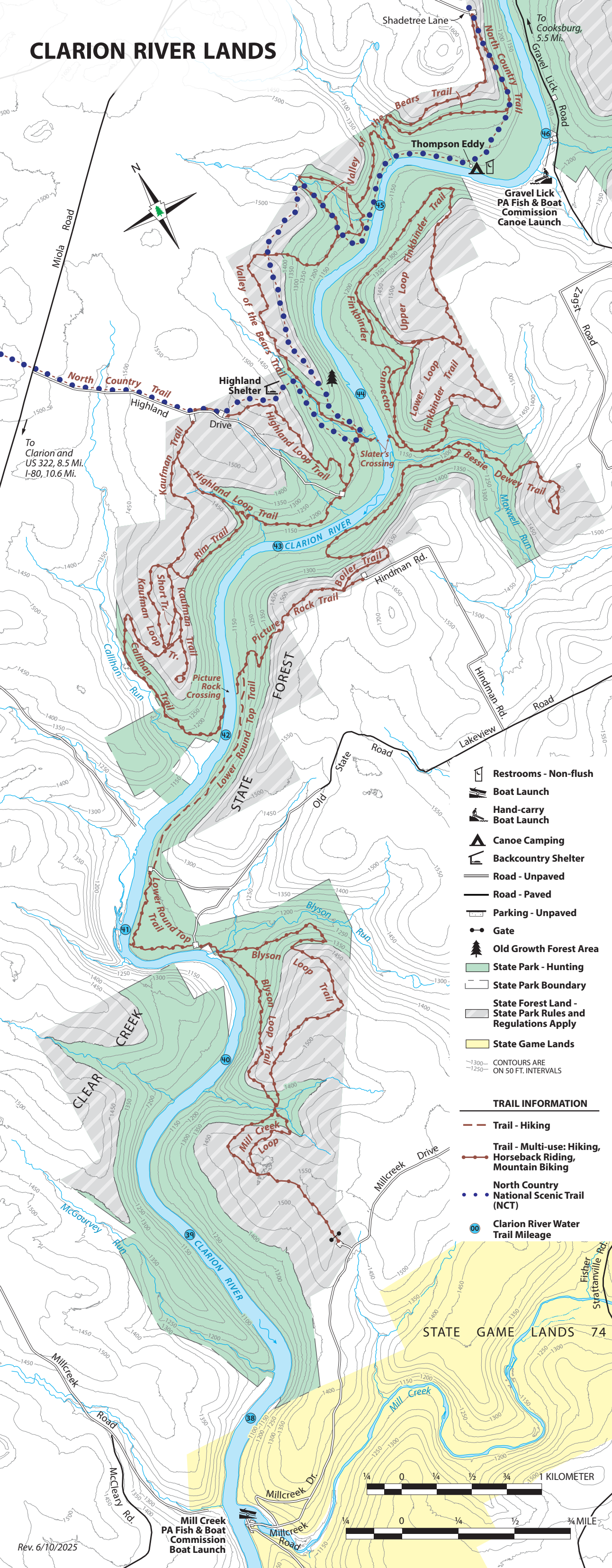
Call or text 988 to contact a crisis center counselor during a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

Nearest Hospital
Clarion Hospital
1 Hospital Drive
Clarion, PA 16214
814-226-9500



CLARION RIVER LANDS



Trail Ethics

Right of Way Protocol

- Bicyclists yield to all users.
- Hikers yield to horseback riders.
- Common courtesies should prevail for all users.
- In flat terrain, move to the right and allow others to pass.
- In uneven terrain, move to the downhill side and allow others to pass.

Trail Use

- Designated trails are marked with red blazes and signs unless otherwise indicated.
- Stay on the trail; avoid taking shortcuts or making new trails.
- Stay in single file to avoid damage to vegetation.
- Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage, so consider other trail options.

Safety

- Control your actions.
- Travel only at a speed that is safe for the conditions on the trail.
- Avoid startling other trail users.
- Show respect when passing other trail users. Slow to a walking pace or stop.
- Anticipate other trail users around blind corners and in areas of poor visibility.
- River crossings possess inherent danger. All users are advised to use caution if crossing the river.

Obey All Park Rules and Regulations

- Camping and fires are only permitted in designated overnight areas.
- Extinguish all fires before leaving the area; fires are prohibited when the wildfire danger is high.
- Alcohol is prohibited.
- Pets must be leashed and under control at all times.

