

HIKING: 50 miles



A Beach Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities in Sand Spring Area: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

Beach Trail provides an easy walk between Sand Spring Lake and the campground.
B Bear Trail
1.1 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This wide, grassy trail branches off Fourth Run Trail (G) and ends at the northern park boundary. This secluded trail is great for viewing wildlife.

C Blue Trail
1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Connecting Sand Spring and Pine Hill trails, Blue Trail winds through a forest dominated by chestnut oak, mountain laurel, and rhododendron. Mid to late June is the best time to see blooming mountain laurel, while blooming rhododendron can be seen early to mid-July.

D Boulder Field Trail
3.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail begins at the parking lot off Route 534 and ends at Boulder Field, a National Natural Landmark. Along the trail you may see a variety of wildlife including bears, white-tail deer, turkeys, snowshoe hares, ruffed grouse, and owls.

E Deer Trail
0.5 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Deer trail starts in the Sand Spring Day Use Area and ends at PA 534. In the spring and fall, vernal and autumnal pools along the trail may contain various frog, toad, and salamander species. A short section of the trail connects to Nature Trail (O) which leads to Sand Spring Day Use Area.

F Fireline Trail
2.4 miles | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended
Originally developed as an access road for firefighting equipment, this scenic trail has a picturesque overlook of the Lehigh River and Lehigh Gorge State Park.

G Fourth Run Trail
4.8 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

The longest trail in the park passes through a wide variety of landscapes and habitats. It crosses Fourth Run multiple times, which provides excellent fishing opportunities for native brook trout. The trailhead is off Boulder Field Road.

H Gamewire Trail
3.3 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

Accessed from the Sand Spring Day Use Area, this trail follows the boundary fence line that used to surround the game preserve of General Harry C. Trexler, who owned most of the property that became Hickory Run State Park.

I Gould Trail
1.0 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended, snowshoeing recommended
Trailhead amenities: benches

This trail winds through deciduous woods and fields, crossing Goulds Run at the trail's mid-point. In the summer, look and listen for indigo buntings, broad-winged hawks, field sparrows, and eastern bluebirds.

J Hawk Falls Trail
0.6 mile | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail wanders through a tunnel of rhododendron and ends with a view of Hawk Falls, a natural, 25-foot waterfall. Swimming and picnicking are prohibited at Hawk Falls.

K Hickory Run Trail
1.3 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended
Trailhead amenities: Non-flush restrooms

Starting in the Shades of Death parking area and accessed via 534, this trail descends into a field where the National Park Service built a picnic area and parking lot in the 1930s. Parts of the curbing can still be seen among the wildflowers. This is one of the best places in the park to see butterflies.

L Lake Trail
0.6 mile | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This short but very scenic trail runs around the back of Hickory Run Lake and connects Boulder Field Road to Stage Trail (V).

M Leonardville Trail
0.6 mile | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail branches off the western end of Stage Trail (V). The trail resembles a tunnel through a remarkably dense stand of rhododendrons and, at times, seems almost completely enclosed.

N Manor House Trail
2.2 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail begins off PA 534 and follows along the park boundary (white blazes) until it connects with Fourth Run Trail (G).

O Nature Trail
0.4 mile | Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms, potable water, picnic tables, benches

This trail begins near the pavilion in the Sand Spring Day Use Area and meanders through a variety of tree and plant species. Self-guided brochures corresponding with the numbered posts along the trail are available at the trailhead and visitor center.

P Orchard Trail
1.2 miles | Most difficult hiking | Loop trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
This trail is a loop with a spur trail that connects to Hawk Falls Trail (J). It also provides access to the Mud Run Natural Area and fishing in Mud Run, a delayed-harvest and artificial-lures-only stream.

Q Pine Hill Trail
3.9 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Most of this trail follows the park boundary and travels through an oak-maple forest thick with mountain laurel.

R Ridge Trail
1.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

Ridge trail is narrow and winds through the valley carved by Hickory Run. Near the fordway are remains of a double sawmill and flash dam built in the 1830s.

S Sand Spring Trail
2.6 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended
A wooden water tower and waterlines can be seen along this trail. These artifacts are from the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration during the mid-1930s and 1940s. Workers from these programs originally developed the park as a National Recreational Demonstration Area.

T Shades of Death
1.0 mile | Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking
Trailhead amenities at visitor center: modern restrooms, potable water, benches

Despite the gruesome name, this is one of the most picturesque trails in the park. There are also remains of logging mills and dams dating back to the early 1800s.

U Skyline Trail
2.1 miles | More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Blue blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, cross-country skiing recommended

Skyline Trail branches off from Fireline Trail (F) and meanders through a forest dominated by beech, gray birch, and pitch pine. When it reconnects with Fireline Trail, it follows a ridge overlooking the Lehigh River.

V Stage Trail
4.5 miles | More difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail was once the stagecoach road from Bethlehem to Wilkes-Barre. The trail is surprisingly flat and shows the skill of early road builders.

W Stone Trail
1.25 miles | Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restroom

This trail starts in the Boulder Field parking area and passes through sheep laurel, hemlocks, and deciduous forest along the park boundary.

X Switchback Trail
0.7 mile | More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking

This trail connects Hickory Run Trail (K) and Gould Trail (I). From Hickory Run Trail, the trail switchbacks up to the plateau, then meanders through a forest of beech, gray birch, and pitch pine to an intersection with Gould Trail.

Y Boundary Trail
1.5 miles | Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Orange blazes
Recreations permitted: hiking, snowmobiling

This trail runs along the northern boundary of the park and connects Stone Trail (W) with Fourth Run Trail (G).

