

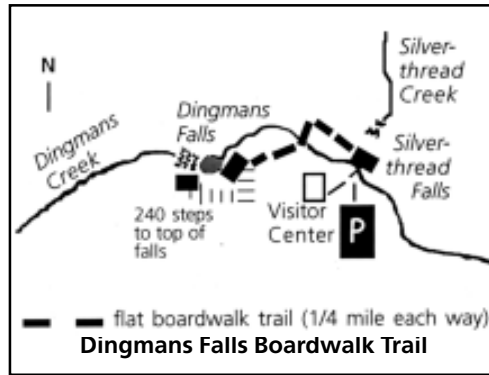


Woods and Waterfalls ON THE PENNSYLVANIA SIDE

WATERFALL RAVINES

Dingmans Falls (trail map at right)

A flat boardwalk accessible to wheelchair-users leads through a hemlock ravine to the base of Dingmans Falls (1/2 mile round-trip, no climb.) From the base of the falls, a steep climb of 240 steps reaches the top of the falls. **Directions:** Follow signs at mile 14 of Rt. 209. The road to the trailhead parking is open from late spring until winter conditions cause closing.



George W. Childs Recreation Site

A loop trail with steep stairs and boardwalks descends 100 ft. in 1-8/10 mile in a hemlock ravine past three waterfalls along Dingmans Creek. *Swimming in the creek is NOT allowed.* **Directions:** From the traffic light at mile 14 on Rt. 209, take Rt. 739 west (a left turn if northbound on 209.) Drive 1-2/10 miles; turn left onto Silver Lake Rd. Drive 1-7/10 miles; turn left onto Park Rd. Immediately turn left again into the restroom parking area.

Raymondskill Falls

A 1/4-mile round-trip hike leads through a hemlock forest to the Upper Falls (70 ft. climb.) From there the Middle Falls are a 1/4-mile round-trip, using steep uneven stairs (150 ft. descent.) Raymondskill Creek at the base of the ravine is a 1-mile hike round-trip with a steep ascent on the return (200 ft. climb.) **Directions:** From Rt. 209 north of milepost 18, turn southwest onto Raymondskill Rd. (a sharp left turn if northbound). Drive 1/2 mile to the restroom, trail map, and parking on the left.

Hornbecks Creek (Indian Ladders) Trail

From Rt. 209, a mile of flat trail follows the creek on an old road past several small lower falls to the large upper waterfall with a 40-step staircase alongside. Hikers can also park at the Upper Lot and descend about 300 ft. on 1 mile of trail to the staircase. **Directions:** A one-lane dirt road on the west side of Rt. 209 halfway between mileposts 10 & 11 leads to/from the parking area; hikers can also park at a pull-off on the east side of Rt. 209 just north of the lane (Cross Rt. 209 carefully!) The Upper Parking is on the east side of Emery Rd., 1-1/2 miles north of Thurner Rd. & 1-3/4 miles north of PEEC. (See PEEC at right.)

ALONG ROUTE 611 PA

□ Mt. Minsi Trails

A variety of trails from a short flat stroll to a lake to a challenging hike to the top. *For maps and directions see the Hiking the Gap Bulletin.*

Arrow Island Trail

The trail switchbacks up 300 ft. in 1 mile from Rt. 611 to the Slateford Trails. (See below) **Directions:** Use the parking area on the southbound (inland) side of Arrow Island Overlook.

□ Slateford Trails

Trails for crosscountry skiing and hiking total 5 miles around fields and old farm buildings. *For maps and directions see the Crosscountry Trails Bulletin.*

POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (PEEC)

□ PEEC has 12 miles of varied trails open to the public. **Maps and details** are available at PEEC's visitor center and at www.peec.org.

Directions: From Rt. 209 turn west onto Brisco Mt. Road 7 miles north of the blinking light in Bushkill, and 5 miles south of Rt. 209 at Rt. 739. **Sensory Trail** (1/4 mile)

A rope guide leads blindfolded hikers through a listening and sensing experience.

Two Ponds (1-1/2 miles, white blaze)

Wildlife, pine stands, and Pickerel Pond.

Fossil Trail (1-1/4 miles, blue blaze)

Look for (but don't take!) fossils along an ancient marine escarpment.

Sunrise Trail (5 miles, yellow blaze)

Wetlands and forest. Hilly terrain with one steep descent of a ledge using guide cables.

Tumbling Waters Trail (3 miles, orange blaze)

Scenic vistas, two waterfalls, and a meadow.

Scenic Gorge Trail (2 miles, red blaze)

Fairly easy trail which follows a stream.

This trail can be muddy in rainy weather.

WOODS and STREAMS

□ McDade Recreational Trail

Joseph M. McDade Recreational Trail is a planned recreational trail which, when completed, will extend for 37 miles on the Pennsylvania side of the park. Two sections of trail totalling 7+ miles are now complete and open to **hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing**. Additional sections of the trail are nearing completion. *For maps and directions see the McDade/Biking Bulletin.*

Hidden Lake Picnic Area

Several old dirt roadways and footpaths circle this quiet lake for a level hike of about 2 miles. Start a counterclockwise tour from the south end of the picnic area parking, and stay on slightly higher ground away from the shore. On the east shore, pass an old lodge and follow its access road north. Turn west to follow the shore. Cross the footbridge to the top of the dam to return to the picnic area. **Directions:** From River Rd. northbound, turn very sharp left (southwest) onto Hidden Lake Rd. 2/10 mile past headquarters. Southbound on River Rd., bear right 1 mile after the light at Rt. 209. Drive 3 miles on Hidden Lake Rd. to the picnic area entrance at the sign on the left.

Railway Avenue Trail

A flat 4/10 mile trail, the first half of which is an old paved village lane suitable for wheelchair users. The second half is an old railbed. **Directions:** Turn southwest onto Creek Rd. 1/10 mile south of the blinking light in Bushkill. Drive 1/2 mile and park at the gate on the right.

Toms Creek Picnic Area Trails

An 8/10-mile flat stroll along the creek is ideal for children. Also, Big Egypt Rd., a gated dirt road 1/10 mile north of the picnic area, leads 1-1/2 miles to Egypt Mills Pond. (320 ft. climb) **Directions:** Toms Creek Rd. is parallel to and west of Rt. 209. Follow signs from 209: northbound, bear left after milepost 4; southbound, turn right after milepost 6. Signal your turn; tap your brakes; **turn with care.**

□ Conashaugh Equestrian Trail

Trails for **horsebackriding and hiking** trails total 9 miles. **Hikers must yield to riders!** *For a map and directions, see the Conashaugh View Trails Bulletin.*

□ = See additional bulletin for details

Hawk

1-800-543-HAWK
1-800-543-4295



Your 24-hour toll-free phone number for reporting crimes or emergencies in the recreation area



Trail Guide TO DINGMANS FALLS RAVINE

The Delaware Watershed

Dingmans Creek flows into the Delaware River and is part of its watershed. The Delaware River is one of the few free-flowing rivers in the eastern United States, and

provides 10% of the nation's population with drinking water. Since 1978, more than 37 miles of the river have been protected as a *Wild and Scenic River*.

Dingmans Ravine

Glaciers covered this area 11,000 years ago. When they began to melt, they gave the waterfalls and streams extra carving power.

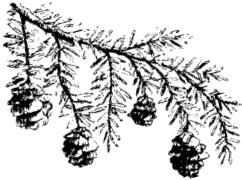
The abrasive action of particles carried by flowing water for thousands of years has helped to carve the waterfalls of the ravine.

Silverthread Falls

Silverthread Falls appears to have been chiseled by hand, but the forces of nature are the only sculptors here. Shale, the sedimentary rock beneath the falls, splits easily both

vertically and horizontally. The shale has split at joint fractures, and falling water has flowed through the weak cracks to help create this 80-foot waterfall.

Eastern Hemlock



The large evergreen trees of the ravine are Eastern hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*), the state tree of Pennsylvania. Thriving in the damp, cool and shady micro-climate of the ravine, hemlocks have a shallow root system with which they cling to the steep sides of the ravine and to its rocky floor.

In addition, an insect from Asia, the *hemlock woolly adelgid*, is threatening Eastern hemlock trees in North America. Infestation greatly weakens and often kills hemlocks. Adelgids are widespread from Virginia to Massachusetts: in some areas, entire hemlock stands have been lost. Resource specialists are monitoring the presence of hemlock woolly adelgid in the recreation area, but the future of Eastern hemlocks in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is uncertain.

The shallow roots, though, leave them vulnerable to fire, drought, erosion, wind, and heavy snows, as well as to trampling by humans. ***Please stay on the boardwalk trail!***

Dingmans Creek

While crossing the second footbridge, note the color of Dingmans Creek. Tannic acid from the bark of hemlock trees leaches into the soil and the creek, coloring the creek and making it slightly acidic. This is the same chemical used to "tan" hides, and in the 19th century there was a tannery upstream.

Tannin is an astringent which causes tissue to contract. "Bark tea" was an early American remedy for sore gums and diarrhea, and hemlock bark also helped to stop bleeding. Both Native and colonial Americans drank a tea made from the twigs and needles of the hemlock.

Rhododendron



Dingmans Falls

Rhododendron are plentiful in the ravine because they thrive in acidic soil. Although hybrid varieties of rhododendron bloom in May, you will have to wait until July to see the large, pinkish-white blooms of the native plant in this ravine.

Rhododendron leaves curl tightly under when it is cold outside, reducing the surface area exposed to cold and conserving heat and moisture. If food is scarce, whitetail deer may browse on rhododendron, however ***all parts of this plant and its sap are extremely poisonous for humans.***

Cascading over stair-step layers of shale, Dingmans Creek plunges 130 feet to create magnificent Dingmans Falls.

The many fallen hemlock trees create habitat for residents of the ravine, and as the trees decompose, they also replenish the soil. Despite the acidity of the soil and the creek, many fish, including native brook trout, live in Dingmans Creek and its deep pools.

The water power of Dingmans Creek attracted saw, grist and cider mills here in the 1800s, and the falls have been a tourist attraction for more than a century. From 1888 to its federal acquisition in 1975, Dingmans Falls was a private enterprise that charged admission to see the falls.

The Visitor Center at Dingmans Falls is open weekends in summer: (570) 828-2253